

# HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, September 26, 2013

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## Vandal attack

Residents wake up to unwelcome messages

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## Pupils' new leaf

Lottery grant transforms library into special forest

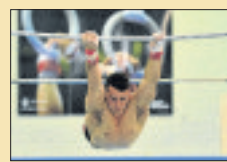
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## Back in swing

Kristian looking towards gymnastic championships

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## Hammer thugs in terrifying shop raid

HAMMER-wielding robbers terrorised female members of staff as they raided a supermarket in Wordsley.

The two balaclava-clad men struck at the Spar neighbourhood shop in Wordsley Green at around 10.30pm on Monday.

Police said that at least one of the men was armed with a hammer with witnesses saying the raiders had targeted the wines and spirits section at the store. The men left the store through a rear alleyway and it is believed they made off in a blue vehicle. The store, which normally opens at 7am, remained closed during the course of the next morning with a sign in the window saying it was due to an incident the previous night.

No-one was injured, but staff were left shaken. They also said the same store had been the victim of other robberies earlier this year and in 2012.

Mandy Jones-Hackett, owner of a nearby hair salon said: "There were also two robberies there in the last year or two."

An assistant at Sentiments card shop, who did not wish to be named, said: "Apparently the men jumped the counter. The girls working there would have been very scared. The raiders trashed the place."

West Midlands Police spokesman Brigg Ford said officers were investigating what had been taken in the raid. Any witnesses should contact police on 101.

## Water floods out hospital

A FLOOD in a hospital forced 20 patients to be moved to a neighbouring ward. A leaking pipe caused the flooding in the Eliza Tinsley ward at Rowley Regis hospital in Moor Lane on Sunday.

Staff in the ward, which provides rehabilitation care, moved the patients to other beds while work was carried out to clear the water, which began gushing onto the ward from 8.30am.

A fire crew from Wednesday was also called to help.

# FORMER COURT TO FACE DEMOLITION

**A FORMER magistrates court which closed down two years ago is to be demolished, under new plans submitted for the site.**

Halesowen Magistrates' Court, in Laurel Lane, was sold by Her Majesty's Court Service to an unknown individual two weeks ago.

And now, a proposal by the new owner to knock the building down has been approved by Dudley Council.

The courthouse was built in 1973 - but it closed two years ago under a £41million cost-cutting measure by the Ministry of Justice.

Humphries Demolition, based in Tipton, have confirmed they have been assigned by the new owner of Halesowen Magistrates' Court, but would not reveal their identity or future plan for the site.

### Adapted

Halesowen South Councillor David Vickers said he was keen to find out the owner's intention for the town centre site.

He said: "The building is not historic, but I don't see the point in knocking it down."

"I suppose it depends on what is wanted next for the site, but I would have hoped the building could have been adapted to another use."

Councillor Vickers said about 30 trees on the site had been chopped down in recent weeks.

## Time's up as £76,000 lottery deadline passes

A LOTTERY winner in Dudley has lost out on the chance to claim a prize totalling more than £70,000 after the time expired to cash their ticket.

National Lottery bosses announced last Wednesday that the £76,842 prize from the Lotto draw on March 20 has remained unclaimed.

The winning Lotto numbers were 4, 11, 14, 27, 43, 46 and the bonus ball was 42.

The money will now be distributed to good causes.

by Alex Ross

The magistrates court was first put up for sale two months after its closure in March 2011.

All Crown Prosecution Service cases were moved to Dudley Magistrates' Court.

However, last month the Express & Star revealed plans by the Ministry of Justice to also shut Dudley Magistrates' Court.

All criminal casework would cease at the court, in The Inhedge, under the radical overhaul proposed by the Ministry of Justice.

Instead, defendants in the region would have to travel to Sandwell and Walsall to have their cases heard. Meanwhile, all trials in the Black Country would instead go to Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court, along with youth cases.

The plans have attracted opposition and Dudley North MP Ian Austin has launched a petition against the proposal.

● Protest - See Page 16

## Couple tie knot old-fashioned way



Happy couple Steve Evans and Jo Lavender, who were married at the Black Country Living Museum, in Tipton Road, Dudley

MORE than 100 guests turned the clock back to Victorian times for a wedding with a difference at a popular open-air museum.

Black Country police officer Steve Evans married his bride Joanne Lavender in a spectacular ceremony at the Black Country Living Museum.

Around 50 of the guests were dressed in 19th century-style finery for the wedding, with the rest wearing the traditional Black Country outfits of flat caps and waistcoats. And instead of having a formal wedding reception at a plush hotel, they decided to have a good old-fashioned knees-up at the Bottle & Glass Inn in the museum village.

"We wanted to break every single rule in the book," said Steve, 42, from Coseley.

"We are all proper Black Country folk. They have done weddings at the museum before, but this is one of the biggest they have ever done."

The vows were taken in the museum's school house, and supper came courtesy of the museum's traditional fish and chip shop. Guests also took part in a sing-along at the pub, accompanied by an old-time pianist who handed out the song sheets.

Later in the evening the party assembled in the courtyard for a live band, headed by Joanne's brother.

With Steve a keen Wolves fan, while Joanne, 37, supports West Bromwich Albion their cake reflected their allegiances. "We have had a special cake made, with the one half in Albion colours, and the other half in Wolves gold-and-black," added Steve.



Steve and Jo with their wedding cake and football cake

## Ex-mayor in shame over porn will leave

A SHAMED former mayor who viewed pornography on his council computer has revealed he will step down from the authority - less than a week after vowing he would remain as councillor despite the controversy.

Councillor Ray Burston was issued with a formal warning at a Dudley Council standards sub-committee meeting after admitting to visiting the adult websites. It was the second time he had been reprimanded for viewing pornography after being warned by former Conservative group and council leader David Caunt around 10 years ago.

Following the sub-committee's warning, Councillor Burston, who has sat on the authority for 21 years over two stints, vowed to continue as councillor for Hayley Green and Cradley South. But he now says he has taken the decision to step down as a councillor when his office in term expired next year.

He also voluntarily resigned the Conservative whip - in doing so becoming an independent councillor. He added: "I can only reaffirm to them my deep remorse, and to take this opportunity to thank them for the support they have given me."

Conservative leader, Councillor Patrick Harley, said the right decision had been made. Councillor Burston has said he will donate the remainder of his council members allowances to the Mayor of Dudley's charities.

## Teenager is found safe

A TEENAGE girl who went missing following a meal with friends and family has been found following a police search.

Stacey France, aged 16, was last seen in the early hours of Sunday morning, but was found safe at 5.30pm on Monday in Oldbury.

She had left her home address, in Hanover Road, Rowley Regis, after the meal but failed to return home.

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## NEWS

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## James runs up a total for good cause



James and Leanne

WHILE most men might be looking forward to a slap-up meal on their birthday, James Sutton of Stourbridge, spent his 31st running the second of eight fundraising marathons he is doing over eight weeks. His target is to raise £2,500 towards research into the rare degenerative lung disease that has hit his fiancée, Leanne Lilwhite.

Leanne, 30, received the shock diagnosis in March this year. Her condition, commonly known as LAM (short for Lymphangioleiomyomatosis), is one of the world's rarest diseases. It affects only women – around seven in a million – and is a progressive, incurable illness. There are currently about 200 patients in the UK. With a couple of 26.2 mile-

tallies behind him, James has already raised £2,427, pounding the streets of Wolverhampton and the hills around Dorking. By mid-October he will have run a further 78.6 miles at events in Snowdonia, Northants, Weston super Mare, Cardiff, Oxford and Birmingham. The charity James is fundraising for is LAM Action,

for which the website address is [www.lamaction.org](http://www.lamaction.org). Donations can be made via <http://www.justgiving.com/Leanne-Lillywhite1>. James, a financial adviser for MLM Financial in Shrewsbury, said: "Leanne and I are genuinely overwhelmed with the level of donations so far." The couple plan to marry next June.

## Brother's shock phone call that led to reunion



John with his book, Finding Thomas, about a family which reunited

**JOHN** Fisher had just got in from work when the phone rang. When he picked up the receiver he could scarcely believe his ears.

"Hello, I'm your brother Thomas," said the man on the other end of the line.

John, now aged 58, had not seen Thomas since he was a baby. The pair, and a third brother Stephen, had grown up in a troubled family and were separated after being taken into care in 1963.

But John's success in tracking down his long-lost sibling led him to discover he had two other brothers and a sister, and took him on a seemingly endless quest to bring the family together.

Now John, a retired property services manager with Dudley Council, has put pen to paper to reveal his story in a moving new book.

John, of Spring Vale Close, Coseley, vividly remembers the day he received the telephone call which would change his life.

"My initial instinct was simply to start crying, but at the same time to maintain control of my emotions in order to take in what was happen-



John Fisher, who is standing at the back second left, with his siblings Diane, Sandra, Steve, David, Alison, Thomas, Tracy, Mark and Susan

by Mark Andrews

ing. My mind was awash with thoughts, was this really Thomas? Was someone playing an awful trick on me? I felt at that moment that I needed to confirm to myself that this really was him."

By amazing coincidence, both brothers had been in touch with social services in an attempt to trace each other, with both of them visiting the council offices within a day of each other.

## Determined

Speaking to the Express & Star, Mr Fisher says: "You can call it spooky, fate or whatever you want. But 24 hours after I went into the social services office and left my details, he went in to do the same thing." Mr Fisher says he was determined to find his family after being without them for so long. "I'd got my own life, my own children. But I felt there was something missing."

He had wondered what had happened to his younger brother ever since the pair were separated when he was just eight years old and Thomas was 17 months.

His mother Margaret had been

committed to a hospital while suffering from mental illness, and his father Josiah reluctantly agreed that he was unable to bring the children up alone. Despite their problems and their children being taken away, the couple had more children who were also taken into care. After Margaret died from cancer, Josiah married someone else and had another three children.

John remained in contact with his father and Stephen, two years his junior, but it would be decades before he would see Thomas again, later discovering he had been adopted.

His book, Finding Thomas, tells how the pair were reunited at an emotional meeting in the car park of the Apple Tree pub in Roseville, Coseley, 19 years ago, and how they have become close friends since. The following years would be spent trying to trace the other three siblings – Mark, David and Susan – who were born after John, Stephen and Thomas were taken into care.

Susan now lives in Cardiff but the others are in the Black Country – Thomas and David in Dudley, Mark in Wednesbury and Stephen in Sedgley.

John and Stephen's search for their siblings was featured in the



John Fisher as a young child, the picture is used on the book cover

The Chronicle in 1989, and the pair employed a genealogist which would eventually see the whole family brought back together in 2007.

The book also tells the harrowing story of John's troubled childhood, which saw another brother and sister die during childhood, as well as a life of abject poverty growing up in a dysfunctional family.

But despite his troubled start, John, says there is no aspect of his life he would have changed, as were it not for an extraordinary chain of events which saw him eventually live with his grandmother, he would never have met his wife Diane.

He says: "I went to live with an aunt in 1963 but three years later my father wanted me to move in with him and his mother. But he then moved out and left me with my grandmother. Living there I went to Bishop Milner School and that's where I met Diane."

In the book he reveals: "She has become the only person in my life I can confide in, share my pain, my thoughts, my disappointments, my joy and elation. She is my life breath."

● **Finding Thomas is available in selected bookshops and through Amazon.**

## Chiefs in review on policy to wear veils

A REVIEW is being launched over whether full-face veils should be worn within the health service, with 17 NHS hospitals having enforced bans and Dudley health chiefs saying they will discuss the matter further.

The review over the religious headress has been announced after Health Minister Dan Poulter claimed that face coverings can be a barrier to good communication between health care professionals and patients.

He has now ordered a review of current advice and asked regulators to devise new uniform rules for health service guidelines. Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, said it was looking into the issue.

Chief executive Paula Clark said: "The question of whether full-face veils can be worn while at work has never been raised at The Dudley Group. In light of the national position we are now reviewing our uniform policy." Sandwell Hospital says it 'does not expect' staff to cover their faces.

## Wardens almost hit by driver

A DRIVER sped away and almost hit two parking wardens after being given a ticket for parking on double yellow lines, a court was told.

Michael Dilworth had returned to his Vauxhall Astra in Dudley High Street to find the wardens printing a ticket and taking a picture of his vehicle.

Prosecuting, Miss Lynda Gudgeon told Dudley Magistrates Court: "He gets into the vehicle and throws a two-year-old child into the passenger seat, starts the engine and drives away. Both officers said they had to jump out of the way as the vehicle quickly sped away."

Miss Gudgeon said a nearby police officer saw the incident and stepped out in the road to stop Dilworth in the car, but he made off again and was later arrested.

Dilworth, aged 27, of Titford Road in Oldbury, had denied the charge of dangerous driving at a court hearing on June 21 but changed his plea.

His case was adjourned for sentencing on October 16.

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## Powers to be greater for PCSOs in county

POLICE community support officers covering Worcestershire will be given new powers – but forced to work longer hours.

West Mercia Police said the move was aimed at making better use of a 'highly-valued' officers.

PCSOs will be given 10 new powers including the power to detain without the use of force, to conduct drugs searches, dealing with truancy and certain traffic offences.

They will be able to deal with alcohol-related crimes by issuing fixed penalty notices across their region which includes Cleat and Stourport.

Some community officers will also be based within secondary schools according to police chiefs in West Mercia and Warwickshire which have joined for the scheme.

Police chiefs said the plan, which comes into force from next Monday, could mean PCSOs working until midnight.

However Assistant Chief Constable Gareth Morgan said: "PCSOs are firmly established both within the police service and communities and are highly valued by both forces as a visible local presence within our safer neighbourhood teams," he said.

## Bake off for cancer cause

STUDENTS at Halesowen College are hosting a Great Pink Bake Off next month to help raise funds for the Breakthrough Breast Cancer charity.

The student bakers have taken on the challenge on October 18 to raise as much money as they can through a sweepstake.

Those who collect the most cash, coupled with securing votes for the best cakes, will be declared the winner.

## Sainsbury's store staff raise £200

COLLEAGUES from Sainsbury's Amblecote store have raised more than £200 for charity. Staff from the store on Sandringham Way staged a back to school dress-up day and raised £222 for its charity partner, Mary Stevens Hospice.

Store manager Kevin Healy said: "The day was a great deal of fun."

# Yow keep going Big Yin, says funnyman Tommy



Tommy Mundon, who retired from comedy, now goes to the day centre at Mary Stevens Hospice

VETERAN Black Country comedian Tommy Mundon has been saddened by the news that fellow funnyman Billy Connolly has been struck by Parkinson's disease – the same illness that ended his own 50-year career.

But Tommy, now aged 79, who quit the Black Country circuit last year because of his ill-health, had this piece of advice for the Big Yin – 'keep going as long as you can'.

Billy, aged 70, revealed this week that he has undergone surgery for prostate cancer and is being treated for the early symptoms of Parkinson's.

Tommy, who lives in Alexandra Road, Halesowen, was diagnosed with Parkin-

son's two years ago and, at first, carried on performing. But the condition made it harder to remember his lines and he threw in the towel in June last year.

Billy admitted earlier this year that he had started to forget his lines during performances and he has just been diagnosed with Parkinson's after undergoing surgery in America for prostate cancer.

Tommy, who was a stalwart of the Black Country Night Out variety shows, said of living with Parkinson's: "Sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down – and sometimes I'm very down. It's a complicated disease. I'm a fan of Billy Connolly and it was a blow to hear he now has it."

"I was lucky mine was diagnosed

early – and hopefully Billy will be able to get the best treatment and keep going and making people laugh."

The Black Country comedian found out he had the condition after he fell at home while dashing to answer a phone call and banged his shoulder.

"My doctor saw me walk up and down a couple of times – and said, 'Tom, I'm afraid you've got Parkinson's.'"

"I've had brilliant treatment from the team of nurses at Russells Hall Hospital," said Tommy, who now goes once a week to the day centre at Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice to give his wife, Val, a break. "I'm doing all right but missing showbusiness."

# Cars, homes and firms hit in night of graffiti attacks

GRAFFITI was sprayed on dozens of cars, homes and businesses in a spate of vandal attacks across a whole neighbourhood.

More than 20 homeowners woke up to find the tag graffiti on their home walls, garage doors and vehicles in their driveways in Spies Lane and Howley Grange Road in Halesowen.

Quinton Methodist Church and Dallows Memorials as well as dozens of street signs and roadside walls were also targeted by the random spate of vandalism. While most of the graffiti was simply a 'CNS' tag, there were also obscene messages scrawled over people's homes.

The vandalism was discovered on Saturday morning – and a suspect has been caught on CCTV spraying a tag on a resident's car in Howley Grange Road just before 4am. The hooded individual can be seen running across the drive, spraying the side door of the parked vehicle before running away.

### Sprayed

Childminder Jenny Clulo, aged 42, has the CCTV to help guard her business – but after being woken up by neighbours to alert her to the attack on her car she immediately thought of the 24-hour coverage.

She said: "I went straight to have a look, and there in the middle of the night I could see the person who sprayed the car. It was strange to watch. The whole neighbourhood has been shaken by what has happened. I hope the footage might help police."

Four police officers turned up on Saturday morning following calls to inspect the damage and speak to

by Alex Ross

victims. Resident Derek Dowell, aged 61, of Howley Grange Road, had a 'CNS' tag sprayed across his courier van. He now has to have the graffiti removed before returning to work. He said: "I don't understand why someone would do this."

Lynne Edmonds, aged 57, of Howley Grange Road, woke up to find the tag scrawled over the side of her house. She said: "It's not what you want to find when waking up to your weekend."

Renee Gerrard, aged 89, of Bournebrook Crescent, also had her bungalow targeted. Her son-in-law Tony Walker, aged 70, said: "It's disgusting someone could do this."

The graffiti artist climbed Alan Walker's garage roof to scrawl the tag on the side of his house in Spies Lane.

His nephew Jon Evans, aged 29, said: "I've seen the tag sprayed across the town. The person needs to be stopped now."

Last week, Halesowen Inspector Dez Lambert said police were investigating a spate of graffiti across the town. A man was arrested, then released on bail on September 13. Pc Paul Chambers said: "There has been a spate of damage which has occurred in the area. This is something police will not tolerate and will investigate."



Dallows Memorials, Victoria Avenue, Halesowen, which suffered at the hands of the spray-paint graffiti vandal



Andy Ridley attempts to remove spray paint from his car



Lynne Edmonds and John Willets view the damage

## NEWS

in brief

### Age UK hosts big skills event

THE young and the old are teaming up for a joint event to celebrate being 'full of life'.

Dudley Youth Service and Age UK Dudley are planning the annual event, to be held on Tuesday, to celebrate the contribution that older people make to their local communities.

It will take the form of a 'big skills share', involving both young and old, at The Source Youth Centre, by Fairhaven School in Barnett Lane, Wordsley, from 5.30pm to 8pm.

Sally Huband, chief officer at Age UK Dudley, said: "In Dudley we wanted to show just how good it is for our local community to see older people and younger people get-ting together and having some fun together."

The skills on offer at this year's event range from map-reading and poetry to cake decorating.

There will also be an opportunity to get to grips with the Wii console.

### Gambler in drugs charge avoids jail

A GAMBLING addict who rented his house out to cannabis growers in return for thousands of pounds in cash has escaped a prison sentence.

Steven Narang, aged 61, of Enville Street, Stourbridge, pleaded guilty to permitting his premises to be used for the production of class B drugs. He was given a 52-week suspended sentence and a two year community order.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard police found 341 cannabis plants with a street value of £100,000. Prosecuting, Mr Paul Mitten said Narang was working in a casino and was offered £12,000 as a player for the use of his premises.

### Bat walks at park to sample wildlife

VISITORS are being given the chance to find out about the creatures that come out in the park after it gets dark.

Bat walks will be taking place at Haden Hill Park in Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath.

Jane Hanney, museum services manager, said: "We are very lucky in Haden Hill Park. We have at least three species of bats."

The walks will take place tomorrow and on October 4. Booking is essential on 01384 569444.

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## NEWS

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



IS ANYONE surprised by this week's TUC report showing that thousands of tenants have slipped into rent arrears after being clobbered with the bedroom tax? I can't think of a more mean-spirited policy than cutting the housing benefit of people whose only crime is to live in the house their local council or housing association gave them. Everyone accepts there is a desperate shortage of family-sized public housing, caused largely by successive governments ripping up border controls and rewarding people for breeding like rabbits. Tenants with smaller families should be encouraged to vacate big houses they no longer need. But the way to do that is by building more one and two-bedroom homes in the area and paying tenants a sweetener of, say, £1,000 to make the move. More carrot, less stick.

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SO EVERYONE was guilty but no-one is to blame. The "serious case review" into the death of four-year-old Daniel Pelka who was murdered by his mother and her partner in Coventry, says some professionals were "too optimistic" in believing Daniel's lying mother. We are told that "critical lessons" must be "translated into action". It all sounds hideously familiar. The beauty of a report like this is that it can be pulled off the shelf and used again, time after time for years to come, simply by changing the name of the dead child. A masterpiece.

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FREE school meals for all under-eights? Part of me rejoices at the prospect of millions of mums no longer having to worry about the next day's sandwiches. The other part of me fears that kids who were quite happy with sarnies will now be tearfully exposed to the latest theories on what constitutes a healthy meal. Anyone for tofu and broccoli surprise, kiddies? It is a curious thing but in the days when every state-school kid was raised on a shilling's worth of braised beef, mashed potatoes and stodge pudding, we were a lot thinner and a hell of a lot fitter than today's little sofa-slugs.

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MY ABIDING memory of school dinners (now renamed "school lunches" by the interfering middle classes) is of salads suddenly appearing on the menu with an accompanying bread roll. On day one, the rolls were dry. A pal and I, both aged 10, solved the problem by pouring salad cream on them. For this spark of initiative we were both whacked on the head by a teacher. Happiest days of your life.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Veil row college Dame Christine to step down

by Alex Homer

**THE principal of a college at the centre of a row over religious veils has announced she is to step down.**

Dame Christine Braddock, who presided over Birmingham Metropolitan College's takeover of Stourbridge College, is to go by the end of next year.

The announcement comes soon after the college made a U-turn following the introduction of a ban on students wearing religious veils.

But Dame Christine has stressed that her decision to leave was made months before. Dame Christine, who took up the post in 1998, said the veil ruling was 'a college issue'. "That was a college decision, this is a personal decision," she said. She added: "I am not resigning, I have no plans to resign. I am going to retire as most people do when they get to my age."

## Intention

"It was last year we began to put succession plans in place. You can't run an organisation of this size without succession plans in place early."

Dame Christine said she had told the board of her intention to retire, but had not yet given official notice to leave the organisation.

She said: "I have to give a year's notice so in terms of that I have only given an intention to retire in due course at this stage. I have been here for 16 to 17 years, I think I have done enough."

The news was made public following the appointment of the college's new chairman of the corporation, Steve Hollis. He takes over from Vij Randeniya. One of Mr Hollis' first tasks will be to find a replacement for Dame Christine. He said: "The board has had a phased approach to succession planning."

The college became the first in the region to bring in the ban for 'security reasons' and students were told to remove face coverings, including caps and hoods. But the ban on the niqab, a veil that only leaves a slot for the eyes, was scrapped after being criticised by some Muslim girls.

## SOS as cat crisis hits RSPCA



RSPCA fosterer Susan Tranter, of Thorns Road, Quarry Bank, is looking after 15 cats

A CAT crisis is swamping RSPCA branches – and the animal charity has launched an SOS for help to rehome thousands of moggies.

RSPCA branches across the Black Country, Staffordshire and the rest of the West Midlands are desperate for help because of an unprecedented number of cats in their care. It is so bad that some branches and centres in the Midlands are unable to take in any more moggies at the moment, with several having more than 100 cats desperately waiting for new homes.

Stourbridge and district branch is looking for homes for 52 cats and kittens, which are being looked after by nine fosterers. They include three, three-day-old kittens among a litter of five dumped in a box next to a recycling bank in Cradley Heath – two of which had died.

Susan Tranter, of the Stourbridge branch, who is currently looking after a total of 15 cats at her home in Thorns Road, Quarry Bank, including the three survivors and two other kittens, said: "The situation is desperate."

## Four dogs rescued as fires start in kitchens

FIREFIGHTERS rescued four dogs in two separate blazes sparked by chip pans in kitchens. And a smouldering cooker pan at a third home led to an elderly woman needing treatment.

Black Country firefighters said the three incidents – in Brierley Hill, Cradley Heath and Oldbury – proved how important it was to have working smoke alarms in homes.

Three dogs were rescued after a small blaze on the kitchen stove started at a house in Bankwell Street, Brockmoor, Brierley Hill, while a mother was out on a school run last Tuesday morning.

A deep fat fryer had been left on the hob. But as the woman returned at around 9am she heard the smoke alarm and called 999.

Fire crews from Brierley Hill and Dudley dragged out the dogs and the animals, as well as the woman, escaped unhurt. Watch commander Nick Lacey said: "It was down to the lady hearing the smoke alarm going off which helped stop anything more serious."

The crew was then sent to Whitehall Road, Cradley Heath, at 10am, when an elderly woman was overcome by smoke from a pan on the cooker.

Later, an Oldbury crew tackled a blaze after a chip pan spilled on to a hob in Cornwall Avenue, Brandhall. A 16-year-old boy fled to safety and a terrier was rescued.

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# Rottweiler was neglected in chaotic lifestyle of gran, 32

by Louise Jew

**GRANDMOTHER** Emma Spooner – aged only 32 – left a rottweiler to fester and starve in a filthy yard for five years and exposed her own children to the danger of dog bites.

The pet, Kane, eventually had to be put down by the RSPCA.

Emma Spooner, of Tividale, was petrified of Kane after he bit two of the five children living in her home.

The underweight animal had to be put down because he had become so aggressive after living in his 'own filth' and being tossed food and water at the home in Peel Way. Spooner admitted failing to ensure Kane had a suitable diet and environment.

She was last week sentenced to a curfew on Friday and Saturday nights for three months and banned from keeping animals for five years. She was also ordered to pay £1,000 costs with District Judge Graham Wilkinson telling her to give up smoking to pay the bill.

Spooer was only 31 when her 14-year-old daughter gave birth to a baby son 17 months ago – she says she feels too young to be a gran and asks her grandson to call her Emma.

She was having to cope, not only with the five children living in her home, but also with looking after an aggressive dog after her boyfriend left her with it.

And, speaking to the Express & Star after appearing before Dudley Magistrates Court for neglecting the dog, she told of her terror of the animal, which had bitten two of her children.

Spooer said: "The dog didn't like



Grandmother Emma Spooner, was scared of her rottweiler



The dog Kane who lived in a filthy back yard and who was discovered by RSPCA officers to be underweight



The home in Tividale which she and five children shared with the 'feral' pet



The judge gave Spooner a three-month weekend curfew

women or children and, apart from biting two of the kids, he also went for my throat. The dog belonged to my ex-partner. I was under the impression he would look after it and he should have taken it when he left but he didn't.

"I was made out in court to be bad, but the dog wasn't kept outside for five years like they said. He used to come in at night."

Spooer claimed that she contacted the RSPCA last year asking if they would put Kane down but they had told her it would cost £200, which she could not find. She also maintained that the reason the back yard, where Kane was kept, was in such a filthy state when the RSPCA

called was that it had snowed over the previous days and she had not been able to clear the paving slabs.

Mrs Vanita Joshi, defending, told the court yesterday that Spooner had been with her former partner for 11 years.

He mainly cared for the dog and, after he left her for a man, he would on occasions take Kane away for a few days or feed the animal at her home.

"She was petrified of the dog," said Mrs Joshi. Spooner threw food and water to Kane who was between 10 and 12 years old, in the back yard.

Mrs Gaynor Sutton, prosecuting for the RSPCA, said Inspector Steve Morrall called at Spooner's home on January 29

and could see the dog was 'very lean' and the paving slabs in the yard were covered in faeces. The inspector threw some food to the dog, who ate it ravenously.

Mrs Sutton said that, when the RSPCA found him, Kane weighed 36.1kg (5 stone 9lb), when he should have tipped the scales at between 45kg (7 stone 1lb) and 55kg (8 stone 9lb).

District Judge Graham Wilkinson told Spooner: "You left this dog to fester in the back yard. This poor animal, for five years, lived in a small space, unloved and mostly neglected. He goes feral, because he is not getting love and attention. He is left to lie in his own filth."

"He's occasionally thrown food and he

wastes away. Had it not been that someone locally alerted the RSPCA, eventually you would have realised you had not seen him for a few days, because he would have wasted away to nothing."

He was left to starve slowly and would probably have died a sad, lonely death. All this time, you allowed your children to be at risk."

As well as the curfew and pet-keeping ban, the judge ordered Spooner to pay £1,000 costs. At one stage, the judge also halted the proceedings at the court, ordering Spooner to leave the room because she was chewing gum, although he called the case back in about 30 minutes later.

## NEWS

### in brief

#### Gambler in drugs charge avoids jail

A GAMBLING addict who rented his house out to cannabis growers in return for thousands of pounds in cash has avoided a prison sentence.

Svevill Narang, aged 61, of Erville Street, Stourbridge, pleaded guilty to permitting his premises to be used for the production of class B drugs. He was given a 52-week suspended sentence and a two year community order.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard police found 341 cannabis plants with a street value of £100,000.

#### Bat walks at park to sample wildlife

VISITORS are being given the chance to find out about the creatures that come out in the park after it gets dark. Bat walks will be taking place at Haden Hill Park in Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath.

Jane Hanney, museum services manager, said: "We are very lucky in Haden Hill Park. We have at least three species of bats." The walks will take place tomorrow and on October 4. Booking is essential on 01384 569444.

#### Age UK is hosting annual skills event

THE young and the old are teaming up for a skills share event on Tuesday, run by Dudley Youth Service and Age UK.

It takes place at The Source Youth Centre, by Fairhaven School in Barnett Lane, Wordsley, from 5.30pm to 8pm.

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## NEWS FEATURE

## IN MY VIEW

WITH  
MARK  
ANDREWS

CANNOCK Chase Council is going to introduce a 'nominal' 10p-an-hour parking charge for certain car parks in Cannock and Rugeley in a bid to boost its ailing town centre.

The council says the lost revenue will cost the authority around £8,000, which represents around 8p for each of the district's 97,500 residents, so if it helps bring shoppers back into town, it will represent good value indeed.

But welcome though the move is, one wonders whether it kind of misses the point. The problem with car parking charges is not simply a question of finance, it is a matter of convenience, a matter of the sort of welcome that a town extends to its visitors.

It is the whole idea of councils imposing rules and regulations on the people they are supposed to serve, and dishing out punishments to those they consider to have fallen short.

Even with the new 'nominal' charges, shoppers will still need to fumble around for a 10p piece, they will need to know in advance how long they intend to stay, and they will have to affix a silly little piece of paper to their wind-screens to avoid the watchful eye of the street patrols.

Presumably, if a 90 per cent cut in parking charges costs the council just £8,000, then it would cost just another £888.88 – less than a penny a head – to make parking charges completely free.

In fact, it would probably cost even less, as they would not need to employ anybody to empty the meters, not to mention those wonderful people dressed up like the cast of Dad's Army issuing the tickets.

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FORMER drug addict and mother-of-seven Cleo Embley, was jailed for 22 months after swindling the taxpayer out of £94,000 by claiming benefits she was not entitled to.

In mitigation, her barrister Mark Stuart told the court Embley 'knew she was going to have to pay the money back'.

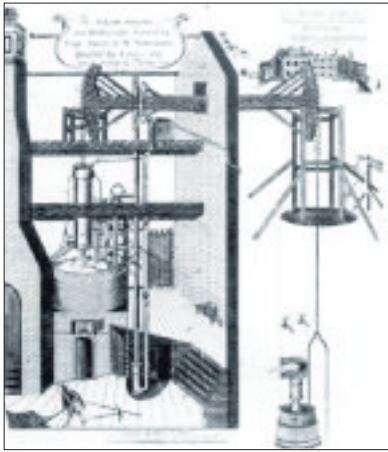
And where was she going to find the money from for that, you might ask. Incredibly, she will continue to receive £237-a-week in Working Families Tax Credit.

So in other words, we will all spend the foreseeable future picking up the tab for repaying the money she stole from us in the first place. Isn't modern Britain just marvellous?

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MORE proof politicians really come from a different planet to the rest of us. Education Secretary Michael Gove says teenagers should give up 'sexting' and instead start posting each other love poems.

He quoted a verse that Napoleon sent to his lover Joséphine de Beauharnais as the sort of thing youngsters might like to send each other: "I hope before long to press you in my arms and shall shower on you a million burning kisses as under the equator." Or "do u want 2 snog 2nite?" as it might appear on a teenager's phone.



An engraving of the engine, with Dudley Castle distant



Father of steam power – Thomas Newcomen



A sign from the Black Country Living Museum

# Engine debate fails to run out of steam

**MARK ANDREWS** outlines the differing views of historians in the region as to where the birthplace of the steam age is – Dudley, or Wolverhampton?

**JOHN Allen and Suhail Rana are agreed on one thing. That the world's first steam engine was built by Thomas Newcomen in the West Midlands.**

But there, it seems, the concord ends. Mr Allen, who has spent half a century researching the subject, is adamant that Dudley is the birthplace of the steam age. Mr Rana is convinced it is Wolverhampton.

To the outsider, it probably seems strange that something so innocuous can get people so steamed up. But a presentation by Mr Rana this summer at Wolverhampton's former Molinex Hotel has seen the temperature rise again.

Until comparatively recently, the consensus has always been that Newcomen's first successful steam engine had been installed somewhere in the shadows of Dudley Castle.

In 1932 T E Lones presented a detailed paper to the Newcomen Society concluding that the Earl of Dudley's Coneegree Park, about three-quarters of a mile west of the castle, was the most likely site. Here, the Earl had a coal works, and it was thought that the engine had been installed to drain water from the mine.

This was briefly challenged in 1948 when historian W O Henderson presented a paper to the Newcomen Society arguing that the so-called Dudley Castle engine may have been preceded by one in Wolverhampton, but the experts in London were not convinced. But now Mr Rana, president of Wolverhampton Civic Society, has reignited the debate, saying he has uncovered fresh evidence that steam power was



**A working replica of the Newcomen steam engine, at the Black Country Living Museum. It is believed the world's first steam engine was built in the region**

first utilised in Wolverhampton. Intriguingly, Mr Rana does not question any of the evidence put forward by John Allen in his comprehensive paper presented to the Newcomen Society in 1965, which makes a compelling argument that the first steam engine was installed at Coneegree. This includes a print by Thomas Barney, headed "The steam engine near Dudley Castle, invented by Capt Savery and Mr Newcomen, erected by ye later. 1712." Further evidence comes from a contemporary account by Swedish engineer Marten Triewald, who spent 10 years in Britain from 1716, who said that the

Newcomen was erected "at Dudley Castle".

Indeed Mr Rana is happy to concede that the first working steam engine was installed at the Coneegree mine in 1712 – but only after it was moved from its original site in Wolverhampton.

Mr Rana contends that prior to being acquired by the Earl of Dudley, the engine was first used by William Bache, the impoverished owner of a mine near to the end of Cross Street, off the Willenhall Road, just behind Moore Street.

"In 1711, it looks like he was having one last attempt to make the mines successful," he says. "We know he bor-

rowed £250. I believe he contacted Newcomen to build an engine."

Like Henderson in 1948, part of his argument is based on the writings of J T Desaguliers, a leading member of the Royal Society, who wrote in 1744 "they bargain'd to draw water for Mr Back of Wolverhampton, where, after a great man laborious attempts, they did make the engine work."

Assuming that Bache, who died suddenly in August 1712, and Back are one and the same, it would appear to give weight to Mr Rana's case. Except that this was rejected by the Newcomen Society in 1948.

The difficulty with that is it was written so many years after the event, and the problem with old men is that their memory fades," says Roger Cline, editor of the Newcomen Journal.

But Mr Rana, a 46-year-old computer lecturer at Dudley College, believes that the real breakthrough came with the discovery of a lost diary by a Dr Richard Wilkes, where he wrote in 1736: "Mr Sparrow had fixed a Fire Engine at the End of Wolverhampton next Willenhall, which now began to work.... This Mr Newcomen most happily effected and built the first that ever drew Water, near to the Place where this now stands."

Mr Allen, a former president of the Newcomen Society from Stourton, is unconvinced. The 87-year-old says there is nothing in Mr Rana's evidence that has not already been considered – and rejected. It is also worth pointing out that Coneegree Park was a vast site, straddling the old Dudley and Tipton boundaries, and although it might have only been a matter of yards from the centre of Dudley, the location of the engine itself might well have been within what is now the borough of Sandwell. Like one of Newcomen's ground-breaking steam engines, it looks like this old debate is set to run and run.

## THROUGH THE YEARS

## 1983...

A WOLVERHAMPTON rock band famed for using pyrotechnics in their act were forced to take action after blowing a hole in a stage. Members of The Smokin' Roadie group bought a second hand fire engine to take to gigs after the accident in Chasewater.

HUNDREDS of audiophiles from all over the country descended on Sandwell for the annual British Phonofair exhibition. Old and valuable gramophones, some dating back to the start of the century, were on display at the Teacher's Centre in Oldbury.

A BICYCLE-MAD postman from Wolverhampton was planning to open a museum in his attic after collecting 22 Victorian bone-shakers in just over 18 months. John Bates, of Tettenthal, found most of his collection dumped in hedges or rusting away in gardens.

## 1993...

A VIKING invasion of Walsall took place to mark the start of the town's popular local history fair. But actors from the Longship Trading Company put on displays of family life and traditional crafts rather than looting and pillaging.

A LYE company was set to cash in on a wave of "Bloobymania" after securing a licence from the BBC to produce a range of Mr Blobby gift items. Alpha Marketing produced clocks and lunchboxes based on the character from the popular Noel's House Party programme.

A WALSALL man was named Grabatologist of the Year after amassing a collection of more than 5,000 ties. Tom Holmes of Pelsall was presented with the award by the Guild of British Tie Makers.

## 2003...

WOLVES owner Sir Jack Hayward put the club up for sale – for nothing. The owner prepared to write off his £40 million investment by handing over his 100 per cent stock holding for the promise of future team and club development by his successor.

A WOLVERHAMPTON man was reunited with a daughter he had not seen for 35 years and a granddaughter he had never met in an emotional get-together. Christopher Taylor met up with daughter Tracey Dwyer after she flew over from Australia.

A BLACK Country builder downed his chisel and sander and picked up a nail file after deciding his future was in the beauty business. Steve Woodhouse, from Dudley, worked in the building trade for three years before opening a nail salon in Wolverhampton city centre.

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## LETTERS

# Sadness at NIMBY block on plan

ISAT tonight reading the report on the planning application for a purpose-built recycling centre and energy regeneration unit in Brierley Hill being rejected and all the NIMBY protesters celebrating this event. I was both disappointed and sad in the same moment.

As a country we are running out of land and the recycling companies are fighting a losing battle. UK Plc has directives from Planet Europe to increase recycling targets to increasing levels or be fined by the EC Commission. Despite this I am in agreement with Planet Europe as we need to improve our recycling performances as

we will run out of places to dump our over packaged supermarket purchases. We cannot continue at the same pace or we will find waste in our streets with nowhere for it to go.

It seems to me that a purpose-built recycling plant would be, however small, an opportunity to begin a reduction in landfill waste and to provide generated electricity for local housing.

In recent months it may not have helped with publicity on fires in recycling plants which has forced their closure and a loss of recycling facilities. This will add to the pressure but with rejections of planning applications for a

new well-managed facility we are making the position worse.

With sites being lost there could be an increase in fly tipping in our lanes.

My view is we should all get more involved in recycling and look more objectively at such planning applications even to the point of putting them in country areas where they will have less impact. So where do Dudley Council go from here? I think that is a decision that the NIMBYs should now carefully consider and hopefully they will come to their senses.

PETER THOMPSON,  
Pedmore, Stourbridge.

## Our visit to Public was revelation

AS WEST Bromwich is not very high on our places to visit list we had relied on reports and comments on the Public Centre; believing it to be the most overrated, over budget and total waste of public money.

Last week we took the opportunity to visit. What a revelation.

Reminiscent of the Pompidou Centre in Paris from the outside, the interior was well planned, easy access and presented scope for activities of various kinds. Shame on Sandwell Council if they intend to dispose of this experiment in social contact that could rival any other local amenity.

If, as reports indicate, it is to be passed over to the local college it could be inaccessible to the general public and deprive them of much needed access to art forms not available anywhere else in the borough.

Perhaps West Bromwich Council is not ready for culture.

KEITH NICHOLLS,  
Dudley.

## LETTERS to the Editor

### POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle  
Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton  
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@  
expressandstar.co.uk

## Blood donor hits out at service fall

FURTHER to Keith Bate's recent letter regarding the Blood Donor Service, I would just like to say I wholeheartedly agree with his comments.

I started donating in 1981 and have seen a steady decline in the service. At one time you could be in and out in about 40 minutes, not anymore.

I do not make appointments because of work commitments so just turn up on the day. But when you do turn up without an appointment, you are looked down upon and told you might have to wait an hour.

Also, why are there so few beds? You turn up and find about eight beds formed into a circle reminiscent of a Western movie when the wagon trains were formed into a circle to thwart the apache Indians.

The final straw for me came when I made my 50th donation and was handed two tacky gifts - they didn't know it was my 50th donation, I had to tell them.

I no longer go because of the system now in place, so can the National Blood Service please do something about it before blood levels reach critically low levels with the expanding population of this country?

ROB EDWARDS, Ulster Drive, Kingswinford.

## Response was muted to stories

LOOKING through a recent edition of the Express & Star, I was reminded of two unusual reports that haven't provoked any comment.

First we had two men found with a pump action shotgun in their car in Dudley town centre. Why would anybody be riding around the streets of Dudley with such a nasty weapon and where did they get it from?

In the second case, a crown prosecution service manager and her boyfriend carried out a £1 million scam over five years, raking in up to £4,000 a week for non-existent taxi journeys.

Consequently it does make you wonder why nobody questioned the obvious amount of invoices submitted and the amounts being paid out.

Now the CPS are telling us they are tightening up on procedures, not before time I would say. This whole episode has proved to be a scandalous theft of taxpayers' money.

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## NEWS

### Coffee event tribute to lost pals



Left, centre manager Simon Cotterill, with other members of staff, Helen Clark, Shirley Newbury and Billie Taylor

### Pair lost touch until treatment

**TWO former school friends who died within six months of each other from breast cancer will be remembered at a charity coffee event taking place today at the pool where they learned to swim.**

Liz Ashcroft and Fiona Wood grew up together, in Dunstall Road, Halesowen, and learned to swim at the town's leisure centre where they also took lifeguard saving classes.

They attended Huntingtree Primary School, Lutley Middle School and The Earls High School together before doing their A-levels at King Edward VI College in Stourbridge.

After losing touch when they left to go to Lancaster and Oxford universities respectively, a tragic twist of fate brought them back together.



Left, Fiona Wood, who died in 2010 and right, Liz Ashcroft



Both were diagnosed with breast cancer aged around 40, and were treated in the same oncology department. Liz had become a teacher at Glynne Primary School, in Kingswinford, while Fiona was part of the management team at Halesowen College. Fiona died in 2010 and Liz died six

months later after tests revealed the disease had spread to her lungs and liver.

They will be remembered when Halesowen Leisure Centre hosts a Macmillan coffee event throughout the day running until 8pm. The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Finch, is guest of honour and will judge a cake-baking contest at 12.30pm.

Centre manager Simon Cotterill, who worked with Liz while she was a lifeguard at the centre as a student, said: "We are looking forward to the day and we hope people will come out to support us."

Liz's mother Jean Hadley, who was Dudley schools' swimming teacher and did voluntary work for Halesowen Swimming Club for their first 25 years, added: "It is poignant how things happen but we try not to be sad when we remember them both."

People who would like more details are asked to call 01384 812800.

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## NEWS

# Leaders say market has lost original specialist aim

**BUSINESS** leaders are calling for their town's farmers' and crafts market to be stopped or improved, claiming it lacks the stalls to justify its name.

Halesowen Chamber of Trade and the town's Cornbow Shopping Centre claim it has now become a 'general market' which does little for town business.

The opposition was sparked after the market organisers Bescot Promotions applied to renew the event's licence for another year.

Steve Evans, from the market firm, said the event did support the town, adding the town business figures should get behind it.

He said: "It is difficult - there are more craft work stalls than farmers' markets nowadays, but I do not just bring any stall holders in."

"I believe over the years the market has improved and we have a better bunch of traders than ever before."

He added: "The objections do disappoint me because after all these years they still cannot get on board and get

by Alex Ross

behind the market." But chairman of Halesowen Chamber of Trade, Steve Fitzpatrick, said he could no longer support the market in its current state.

He claims it fails to meet the licenced quota of providing 25 farmers' and crafts stalls out of the 35 allowed.

He said: "The market isn't a farmers' and crafts market anymore - it's a general market. This isn't what we asked for and I'd rather have no market at all. What kind of farmers' and crafts markets do you see double glazing, rugs and carpets, squeeze mops and jewellery being sold at?"

## Tea room plans for site

A PROPOSAL has been submitted to Dudley Council to open a tea room at the Swinford Timber Supplies site in Hagley Road, Oldswinford. The property, which includes an upstairs two-bedroom flat, is on the market for £185,000. The council is due to make a decision next month.

## Treasures abound in antiques shop



From left, John Tee, owner Brian Smith and Drew Pritchard. A TV treasure hunter has rummaged through the wares of a Black Country antiques shop in a bid to find hidden relics to restore to their former glory.

Drew Pritchard and his team from the Quest TV programme Salvage Hunters visited the Bridale Architectural Antiques shop in Cradley Heath last week.

Presenter Mr Pritchard along with his sidekick John Tee travel the country visiting various shops, warehouses, homes and buildings, hoping to uncover a bargain.

This week they have been filming for the fourth series and have already visited Wollescote Hall and Donington Hall, before the nine strong team descended on the Graingers Lane shop. Brian Smith, aged 69, who has owned Bridale Architectural Antiques for the past 30 years, said he was delighted to be approached.

The father-of-two and grandfather of five said: "I have watched the programme for ages, and I love all these types of antiques programmes and so was very pleased when they said they wanted to come."

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Sunday 24th **Ludlow Christmas Fayre** Adults £19 OAP's £18 Child £15 8am - 4pm

Saturday 30th **York Christmas Market** Adults £15 OAP's £12 Child £12 7am - 6pm

### DECEMBER

Saturday 7th **Wellesbourne Market Stratford** Adults £10 OAP's £9 Child £9 8am - 5pm

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## MEMORY LANE



Barry and Ann Weaver with Malcolm Cooper, at the grave of Private Walter Boots of Lye, during their pilgrimage to Belgium



At the Pool of Peace, a flooded mine crater on Messines Ridge

# Our boys who helped in decisive Messines victory

By Peter Rhodes

UP HERE, on a clear, sunny morning, you can see what the Battle of Messines was all about during the course of the First World War.

This gentle ridge rises near the ancient Belgian town of Ypres. The Flanders plain stretches out below.

Whoever holds Messines Ridge controls hundreds of square miles of territory. From here, as battlefield guide Alan Whittle explains to a party of visitors – on a trip organised by a group which includes former members of 871 Signal troop who were based in Stourbridge – an army can see and destroy anything it chooses.

## Pointless

In the summer of 1917 the Germans had held Messines Ridge for three years. They had turned it into an impenetrable fortress, raining hellfire and poison gas on the British troops below.

In the space of 24 hours, all that changed. The Battle of Messines was not the usual pointless, bloody charge at the barbed wire that cost so many lives here on the Western Front – the tactics mercilessly parodied in Blackadder Goes Forth. Messines was meticulously planned by General Hubert Plumer and his staff and it was that rarest of things, a great British victory.

Hundreds of miles away, in the old First World War training camp on



By the summer of 1917, the Germans had held Messines Ridge for three years

Cannock Chase, archaeologists are today patiently uncovering a tennis-court sized model of the town of Messines.

It is believed to have been built partly as a training aid and partly in tribute to the Tommies who seized the ridge.

On the actual battlefield, nearly 100 years later, visitors place little wooden crosses on the graves of some of those who died in the fighting.

This three-day pilgrimage to Ypres and Messines was organised by the Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry Comrades' Association which includes former members of the Stourbridge-based Signals, until it was wound up in Territorial Army cutbacks a few years ago.

Retired major Malcolm Cooper, from Norton, Stourbridge, and former sergeant-major Barry Weaver, from Cradley, who both served with the Signals lay their crosses on the graves of Tommies in Lone Tree Cemetery who died in a terrible miscalculation.

These doomed soldiers left their trenches too soon and were killed in the explosion of a British mine.

It was the mines that won the battle.

For months before, British sappers, like those immortalised in the Sebastian Faulks novel and television drama Birdsong, had been digging.

They planted 455 tons of high explosives deep under the German trenches on Messines Ridge.

In the early hours of June 7, 1917, the mines were detonated. Nineteen enormous explosions ripped apart a 10-mile section of the ridge.

In 20 seconds an estimated 10,000 German soldiers were killed. Many, as Alan Whittle explains to his silent audience, simply vanished, vapourised in volcanoes of fire as the mines erupted.

Some folk said they could hear the bangs in London.

## Centenary

As all hell broke loose, the officers blew their whistles and 80,000 British, Australian and New Zealander soldiers, supported by tanks and low-flying aircraft, rose from their trenches and swept up on to the ridge, capturing hundreds of Germans who were too injured or shell-shocked to fight back.

Next year marks the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. Many more pilgrimages like this will visit France and Belgium to pay their respects in thousands of little acts of remembrance.

At New Irish Farm Cemetery near Ypres, Barry Weaver's wife Ann stoops to plant her wooden cross on the grave of a Black Country lad.

Private Walter Boots, 30, of 15 Green Lane, Lye, was the husband of Eliza and was killed on September 11, 1917, one of almost a million British and Commonwealth soldiers who perished between 1914 and 1918.

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## NEWS

# First glimpse of £18m scheme

VISITORS were given a taste of life at a new £18 million retirement village which is being built overlooking a park on the site of a former school.

Work to build the flagship 120-bed apartment complex on the old Cradley High School site, neighbouring Homer Hill Park, is already under way.

Officials from developer Midland Heart have showcased what new residents can expect when they move into the modern extra care housing scheme set to open in 2015.

The scheme is designed for people aged over 55 to live independently in their own apartments all while accessing activities, amenities and support if required.

Almost 100 residents attended a showcase event at the Copthorne Hotel, in Brierley Hill, last Tuesday to learn more about the new extra care development.

They were able to view plans and models and could also take part in a range of activities which will be available to residents who choose to move into the new complex.

The organisation's head of older people's services, Sarah Clea, said:



Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Finch, contractor Richard Corns, director Sara Beamond, Sarah Clea of Midland Heart and ambassador Doreen Parkes

"This was an extremely exciting day for all of us involved in the project and we had some hugely positive comments from visitors."

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor

Alan Finch, attended the event and added: "We are tremendously proud to be working with Midland Heart to help significantly improve housing options for older people."

# Tragic driver was trapped

A LORRY driver died after his head became trapped in the tailgate of his vehicle while making a delivery to Dudley's Churchill Shopping Centre, an inquest heard.

Gary Pickering, aged 34, of Swinton, Manchester, was found by a security guard in the loading bay at the shopping centre at 4.12am on September 10.

An inquest was opened and adjourned at Smethwick Coroners Court last week.

The hearing was told that the security guard had rushed to the loading

bay after an alarm went off at the centre.

The guard saw the delivery vehicle parked up and found Mr Pickering, of Chestow Road, slumped beside it with his head trapped by the tailgate.

Senior coroner Mr Robin Balmain said: "CCTV images taken at the scene suggest the tailgate had become stuck and Mr Pickering was attempting to free it."

"At the time he was making a delivery for the company he worked for."

Mr Balmain said that a post mortem has revealed the medical cause of death to be asphyxia.

But he added more information was still needed and adjourned the inquest

until a later date for more inquiries to be made. A date was not set for when the inquest will resume.

Environmental officers from Dudley Council launched an investigation immediately after Mr Pickering's death.

The authority has refused to comment further until this has been fully completed.

Officers have been assisted by officials from Home Bargains, which uses the bay off King Street.

It was originally believed that Mr Pickering had been crushed by a metal shutter at the loading bay.

Police confirmed at the time they were not investigating the matter.

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## NEWS

# Reading is breeze in forest library



Year 1 pupils at Belle View Primary School, in the new forest-themed story and reading room, made after a grant

**A £10,000 lottery grant has transformed a school library into an enchanted forest for children thanks to an artistic touch.**

Youngsters at Belle View Primary School, in Wordsley, have enjoyed story time in their new surroundings this term. Instead of dusty books and drab walls, the library now comes complete with a 'Once Upon a Time' book mural and a tree with its branches snaking across the ceiling.

It has been packed full of objects

**by Andrew Turton**

including a mock car, and the shelves are bursting with books to read.

Artists Glenn Carrington and Phil Lynch were behind the transformation over the summer holiday. School teacher Andrea Perrett was successful in securing the £10,000 cheque from the Big Lottery Fund to bring the project to life.

Computers have also been installed in the library and lessons are taking place daily for children at the Lawnswood Road school.

And Mrs Perrett says the school plan to have the library open to the public in the summer holidays to allow children to continue their reading.

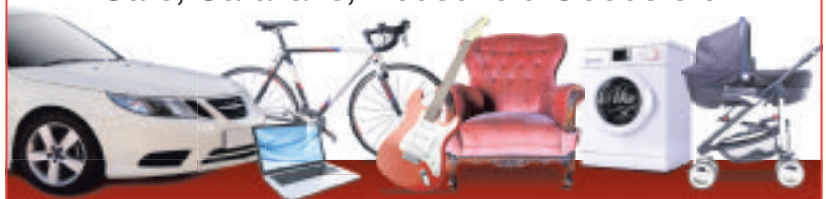
"We think it is very important that children continue to read during the holidays so we are hoping to have many of them come back with their families," she said.

"We are delighted with the new-look library and we are so pleased with what Glenn and Phil did. We think it looks great and the children love it."

The library also boasts its own leaf-shaped table where children can sit to read.

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## NEWS

# Woodhenge scrapped after yob fears voiced

by Tim Spiers

**AMBITIOUS** plans to create a mini version of Stonehenge in a village near Stourbridge have been scrapped because residents feared unruly youths would ruin it.

The £6,000 plans were the brainchild of district councillor Reg Williams, who asked people in Wombourne for their opinions.

But he said the Woodhenge project, which would have been paid for through community funds, will not go ahead because residents do not want young people congregating around it.

### Pledges

He held a consultation and received 124 responses, 60 of them objecting. The rest, a narrow majority, had been in favour and there had been pledges of financial support.

If the plans had come to fruition Woodhenge would have been 65 ft in diameter and 9ft 10in high.

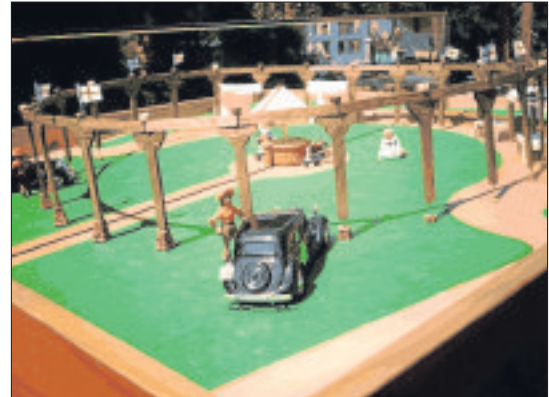
It would have included 24 upright beams and crossbeams to provide an enclosure for a stone round table in the centre.

Paths would have led off the central part of Woodhenge in an area of grassland off Gravel Hill near the centre of the village. And a plaque would have been carved into solid oak wood to landmark the site.

A consultation document was issued in Wombourne Library last month.

It read: "In Wombourne we can have our own henge providing a day to day meeting place which becomes a place for gatherings, performances and even jumble sales.

"The idea is to use a simple design with most parts the same size that can



An artist's model of how the Woodhenge project in Wombourne would look



The site where it would have stood

be handled by volunteers who want to be associated with this bold community statement."

A donation for each of the 48 pieces of wood needed – costing £50 each – was invited from Wombourne groups and residents.

Councillor Williams, who has served on South Staffordshire Council since 1995, said: "People were saying they were concerned it would attract youths who might misbehave. There wasn't a great response to the consultation and it wouldn't have been right to go ahead when so many people were against it."

### Materials

"Some people were quite distressed at the idea that it would be near their homes and we have to respect that."

He said the land was owned by South Staffordshire Council and the cost was just for the materials.

Initially the response was about 10 to one in favour when the idea was proposed at Wombourne Carnival, but wider consultation saw support fall away.

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## New chief to come in at town hospice

THE new full time chief executive at the helm of a hospice offering care for patients including cancer sufferers has been announced.

Stevan Jackson is taking over in charge of Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice at the end of this month.

He will replace Peter Holliday who had been sharing the role with his position as chief executive of St Giles Hospice in Lichfield for the past two years.

The Mary Stevens board said the time had come to have a full time chief executive to manage the organisation through 'a changing and financially challenging environment'.



Stevan Jackson

It comes after Mr Holliday instigated a range of changes to the infrastructure of the hospice to help it survive into the future. Mr Jackson said he was relishing starting his new role.

"I am very proud to be leading a dedicated team of staff and volunteers who deliver a terrific service," he said.

## Powering up with game to boost funds for veterans

A FIVE-A-SIDE football match in aid of disabled war veterans takes place at the Powerleague soccer centre in Halesowen next month.

It is one of a series of heats taking place at 14 Powerleague centres across the UK throughout October with the game in Halesowen due on Tuesday October 8, starting at 7pm.

The event is part of a tournament supported by Patron Capital Partners – a pan European private equity real estate firm. It is hoped to raise money for the Royal Marines Hasler Company, dedicated to the specific and complex needs of seriously injured and ill Royal Marines who require bespoke programmes to aid their recovery.

Called the Royal Marines Charity Cup, the grand final will be held at Powerleague Wembley on Sunday October 20.

### Spectators

The winning squad will receive a celebratory four-night trip to one of a selection of exciting European cities, including flights and £500 spending money, courtesy of Generator, the award-winning group of urban design hostels.

Teams must make a minimum donation of £30, all of which will go to the Royal Marines Hasler Company. Throughout the day at each match, there will be football coaching and other activities for children and, for families, spectators and competitors to enjoy, there will also be a DJ and buffet before final prize giving.

Keith M Breslauer, Patron's managing director, said: "The funds raised from this tournament will go directly to helping those who are injured and disabled as a result of their brave service at war."

Sean Tracey, CEO of Powerleague, said: "Five-a-side and seven-a-side football is a great way to keep fit and socialise; this tournament offers the additional benefit of a great prize, all in the name of a very good cause."

## Cool response to iPhone's launch

ACROSS the country there was a scramble for Apple's latest iPhone models but the new gadgets received a lukewarm response in the Black Country.

Queues built up at the Bullring in Birmingham on Friday, but there was no repeat of the scenes across the Black Country except for a handful of early birds.

Mobile phone stores were open at Merry Hill shopping centre by 8am but only a handful of customers arrived to get their hands on the new iPhone. Apple has described the new iPhone 5S as the 'most forward-thinking smartphone in the world', while its iPhone 5C is a cheaper basic model.

Queues began forming days before at stores in London with hundreds eager to get their hands on the iPhone 5S which features an 8-megapixel camera, slow-motion video and a Touch ID which allows users to unlock their phone with the touch of a finger. It costs between £549 and £709.

The iPhone 5C comes in five colours – blue, green, pink, yellow and white – and costs between £469 and £549.

John Kynnersley, aged 41, from Kingswinford, was an early bird at Merry Hill to buy an iPhone 5s. The delivery driver had been all night at work and arrived at 7.30am to queue with five other people to get the new mobile phone from the Three store. Mr Kynnersley said: "Any new technology generates excitement and when my contract ran out I wanted this phone."

## Hills alive with sound of dogs

A HOSPICE will benefit as dog owners take to the Clent Hills, near Stourbridge, for a mass 'walkies'. Proceeds from the event, on Sunday, starting in the field next to Nimmings car park at 10am, will go to Mary Stevens Hospice. There is a £6 donation fee.

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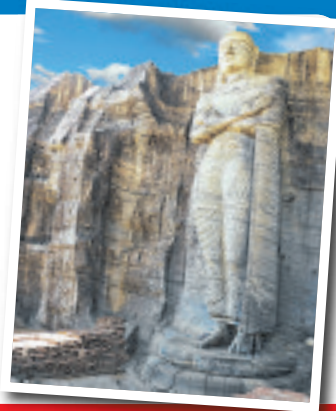
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## NEWS

# Petition launched to protest at court plan

A PETITION has been launched in a bid to save a criminal court, which has been threatened with closure as part of sweeping proposals in the West Midlands.

Ian Austin MP branded plans to shut Dudley Magistrates' Court to criminal cases as an 'outrage' and vowed to fight the proposal.

The Labour MP, who represents Dudley North, voiced his dismay at the proposals, which he said would leave the town without a criminal court for the first time in more than a century.

He says the scheme would also mean Dudley was the largest town in the country without a criminal court and urged people to sign the petition.

### Redundancies

All criminal casework would cease at Dudley Magistrates' Court, in The Inbidge, under the radical overhaul proposed by the Ministry of Justice.

Instead defendants in the region would have to travel to Sandwell and Walsall to have their cases heard. Meanwhile all trials in the Black Country would instead go to Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court along with youth cases.

Dudley would become a civil, family and tribunal centre under the scheme which is out to consultation until October 21. Mr Austin said he feared for redundancies because of the shake-up and said it was another blow to Dudley after its police station was closed overnight.

"These plans are an outrage and should be dropped immediately," he said. "Dudley's police station was closed at night despite opposition from thousands of local people, and now we're set to lose our criminal court too. "Dudley would end up the largest



Councillor Khurshid Ahmed and MP Ian Austin signing a petition to save services at Dudley Magistrates Court, with campaigners

town in the UK without a criminal court when we should be moving more services into the town centre, not taking them away. Dudley's had a criminal court for as long as I can remember, and it's important justice is seen to be done locally, with local people seeing those who break the law in their community punished.

"If criminal hearings move elsewhere it will be harder for local victims to testify, harder for local people to volunteer in court and harder for the

press to deter crime by reporting on local cases. It could also mean that people working in the court have to move or be made redundant."

Anyone wishing to sign the petition can do so by visiting Mr Austin's website, contacting him through email at [austini@parliament.uk](mailto:austini@parliament.uk) or by calling 01384 342504 for a form.

Leading magistrates and solicitors have also raised their concerns about the scheme with the six-week consultation under way.

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## FOCUS ON CRADLEY HEATH AND OLD HILL

# Hundreds are on their marks for rebranded race

HUNDREDS of runners took part in the inaugural Great Black Country Run. The event attracted more than 600 competitors for its 5km and 10km races from Halesowen town centre on Sunday.

Formerly a fun run, organisers Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club rebranded the race in a bid to get more runners.

And it worked – with this year's total beating the 450 runner figure for last year. Event director Alan Bowler said: "It went unbelievably well – we're delighted and would like to thank all those who took part."

"We changed the event this year to include a longer race to get some more serious runners along – we think we got about 300 for the 10km so we're pleased with that."

### Kickboxing

"I'd ask people to continue raising money following the event so we can get as much as possible for our charities."

The 10km road race was started off by Halesowen-born kickboxing champion Simon Akufu at 9am. A fun run then took place at 11am. There was also entertainment and charity stalls in the town centre to complement the event.

Mr Akufu, aged 31, a former pupil at Windsor High School, said: "It's fantastic to support this – it raises good money for charity and helping people get fit."

Friends Suzanne Thompson and Michelle Bowen were among the hundreds who took part in the 10km race.



Dudley Council chief John Polychronakis, Dudley Mayor Alan Finch, Councillor Tracy Wood and Mayoress Heather Finch

The pair only started running together three years ago, but between them have completed five half-marathons.

They took part in the country run as a warm-up to next month's Birmingham Half Marathon. Mrs Thompson, aged 39, of High Haden Road in Blackheath, said: "Running has been life-changing for me – it started as a stress-buster from work but has helped me be a fitter, healthier person. "And I really enjoy it."

# Councillors set to visit proposed mosque site

COUNCILLORS will make a site visit to the site of a proposed mosque and community centre on Wednesday.

Members of Sandwell's planning committee have been recommended to approve the proposals to transform a former Victorian Methodist church in Cradley Heath.

They are due to make a decision on Wednesday, but will first take a look at the proposed site.

The Old Hill Masjid and Community Group has applied to Sandwell Council to change the use of the building in Halesowen Road.

The group said its current base, in Highgate Road, is no longer big enough and they wish to convert the new building into a mosque.

Under plans it is proposed to convert the vacant building to a mosque and teaching facility which would incorporate 17 car parking spaces on site and include ground and first floor extensions and significant refurbishment.

Reports say this would see the development become converted to a two-storey venue with the main prayer hall at ground floor level and classrooms and multi purpose space on the first floor.

Nine objections have been received, which include concerns about noise and disturbance.

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# Living & Shopping in Halesowen & Surrounding Areas



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Road works have gone but the great fresh food is still being served and here to stay!

## Living & Shopping in Halesowen & surrounding areas

Imagine all you ever did was talk about how awful your house is. You actually quite like it, but all your friends hear about is the work that needs doing, how it looks a mess - maybe that it's too cramped.

Would you be surprised if nobody wanted to come and visit?

Now imagine what message it sends out to businesses thinking about moving to Halesowen - bringing new jobs to the area - if all we ever seem to hear about is what is wrong with our town.

There is a lot to be proud of in Halesowen.

We are lucky to have so many businesses that are so committed to supporting the local community.

We are lucky that our town centre continues to attract more local shoppers than most other high streets in the area.

And we are lucky to have a wide range of community organisations working to support the local area. Last weekend's Great Black Country Run was a fantastic example of what we can do when the community comes together.

It might be a bit un-British to boast about what we do well, but we need to be much more vocal in talking about the things that make Halesowen such a great place to live and to work and we need to do more to support those companies that have made Halesowen their home.

I'm working with Halesowen trader Wayne Edwards and other local businessmen on a Buy Local scheme to support Halesowen, and look forward to launching it in the coming months. If it is successful then it will be extended to neighbouring towns

Our town centre is the heart of our local community and we all have a role to play in keeping it healthy by using it and supporting it.

Nobody expects people to buy locally regardless of cost, but why would we shop elsewhere when our local businesses can often provide the same products with better service for no more money?

I'm reviewing the way I buy supplies for my parliamentary office to see what can be sourced locally instead of from national suppliers, because for every pound that is spent with a local business an extra 50p is reinvested back into the local economy.

So let's celebrate what's great about Halesowen and let's support the local businesses that do so much to make it great.



James Wood MP with Steve Fitzpatrick, Chairman of Halesowen Chamber of Commerce, visiting Halesowen Market

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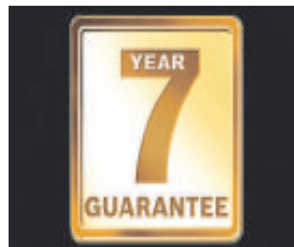
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## ADVERTISING FEATURE

# Bangla Lounge Reopening Soon

The morning of the 18th April saw the devastation of one of Halesowen's popular restaurants. 25 fire-fighters tackled the blaze which gutted the restaurant and meant that for Abdul Bari, his hard work and reputation also went up in smoke. Undefeated, Mr Bari has set to raise a new business out of the ashes like a Phoenix, but better than ever. Mr Bari wishes to thank the emergency services for their punctual attendance and diligence whilst tackling the blaze. Also the many customers who

sent cards and emails offering their support and pledging to return once the restaurant was re-opened.

The Bangla is looking to reopen in the coming month, any interested parties should call for bookings and enquires for regular customers to attend the reopening party, please email with your contact details and will look to add you to the guest list. [info@banglaloungehalesowen.co.uk](mailto:info@banglaloungehalesowen.co.uk)

Open 7 days a week in the evening Bangla Lounge offer dine in and also a takeaway service. With a new modern contemporary outlook and menu. Familiar dishes and the

same high quality chef and staff to serve new and old customers alike.

Using local contractors to have the restaurant rebuilt Mr Bari is striving to ensure that the business is able to get back onto its feet, to serve the local community freshly prepared Pan Asian cuisine. Les Williams Builders, Starkey Electrical & Indoor Climate Systems. These local firms have all worked with Mr Bari to ensure the restaurant has gone through a complete rebuild and refurbishment due to the fire damage and is currently awaiting the official re-opening date. Our new function room which is available for Private Hire from 10-40 covers is situated on the first floor and will be available for private party bookings.

Landlord John Cooper has been patient whilst the work has been carried out and the support shown is encouraging. Mr Bari is grateful for his assistance and this was also received from Scriven & Co who's agent Dawn Davies based at Quniton.

With the new layout and design of the restaurant Bangla Lounge is able to serve 120 covers in one sitting or the refitted restaurant can be arranged to cater for larger parties, booking and menus can be discussed to suit your needs. The refreshed menu offers diners the choice of selecting

from an extensive al-a-carte menu or from the Dish-Dash-Dinning. Mr Bari is looking forward to welcoming old friends back into the restaurant and meeting new ones, whilst they sample the freshly cooked dishes.

Dishes which can be selected from the newly organised menu, makes a visit to the Bangla Lounge a must. The team offer you a new experience backed up with the friendly professional atmosphere that helped the business succeed previously. Meals are able to be accompanied by a selection of drinks from the extensive licensed drinks menu. Dinning is available 7 days per week and a delivery service is available should you not be able to make it to the restaurant. Parking is available just a short walk away from the restaurant.

A Christmas Menu and festive party package allows those who are looking to use a local business the chance to enjoy a festive meal that means the journey will not detract from the time to celebrate. Bookings are currently being taken for party nights and for the main event itself with a Christmas Day sitting available. Further details or to book please email the restaurant.

Mr Bari and staff are excited to welcome you and to assist you in enjoying a fabulous meal.



*Eyes on our great offers*

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Christmas Parties*



Not available on 14th February  
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## Living & Shopping in Halesowen & surrounding areas

**The best business is referred business. That's why Business over Breakfast (BoB) clubs really do work for its members.**

You can get new customers easier and quicker than your competition. Securing your exclusive place at your chosen BoB Club means you block out the competition, giving you the best chance of gaining referrals.

Our members are consistently referring business to each other, so you could have up to 35 members promoting and recommending your products and services by word-of-mouth.

As well as improving presentation skills; boosting your confidence and gaining referrals, you will form strong relationships with business people who are there to help you.

BoB club members get to know, like and trust each other and are happy to recommend your products and services, which generates quality referrals, for you to turn into good quality business.

Our fortnightly meetings provide the platform to network in a professionally structured environment that is relaxed and pressure free. Every member is given between 60 and 90 seconds to do a quick presentation about their business. Every TWO weeks one member is given 10 minutes to carry out a more comprehensive 'Showcase' presentation about their business.

There is NO PRESSURE on members or visitors to give referrals at every single meeting, as this only encourages people to give worthless referrals that are not worth pursuing. Our members are more interested in Quality NOT Quantity.

We meet at Halesowen Golf Club every other Wednesday. The next meeting is on Wednesday 9th September and starts at 7.15am. The meetings finish around 9am, so you are still able to get a full day's work in.

For more information on Halesowen BoB Club, and to book your place as a visitor, contact Lloyd Evans on 07811 956258 or lloyddevans@taxassist.co.uk.



**At Barking Glad we have built a reputation for calm, caring, confident handling, attention to detail and customer care. Dogs, and you their best friends, are equally welcome!**

We operate an open door policy - dogs come and go all day, and we can be seen grooming from our reception area. Most dogs are left in our care, but owners who wish to, or need to are free to stay during the grooming session.

We promise to treat every dog with patience, care & respect and strive to overcome any difficulties dogs may have with the grooming process.

At Barking Glad we groom to traditional patterns or adapt them to your requirements. Price per groom includes bathing, drying, nail trimming and ear cleaning. (We charge a nominal fee to empty anal glands, if necessary).



Grooming will also include some of the following, depending on breed: Clipping, scissoring, thinning, hand-stripping, raking or curry combing.

All dogs are checked over before we groom, to ensure we are aware of any warts or minor injuries. We also check nose, ears, eyes and mouth and will alert you to anything unusual. If your dog is being treated by the vet, get clearance before you book, and please ensure vaccinations are up to date.

We always do our best to put dogs at ease and we are known for our patient and caring handling. Water is always available in reception, and your dog will be taken out briefly if necessary.

Most clients leave their dogs with us, but occasionally wish to stay. If so, drinks are available in reception and you can see us grooming from there.

We always do our best to groom your dog to a high standard, and hope to see you soon.



## Barking Glad Salon

Dog Grooming • Pick Up and Return available

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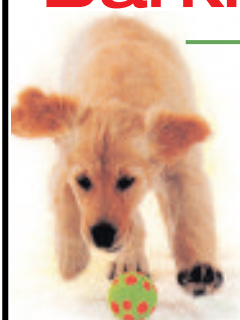
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**P.P.S. Dogs very welcome**





## ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

# STILED HOME SERVICES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2013

## All Smiles at Stiled Garden Party

It was miles of smiles at the Stiled Home Services Garden Party on Sunday 8th of September. The Garden Party was arranged to celebrate the company's first year in its new Headquarters on the Halesowen Road. In attendance were the staff and their relatives along with many of the clients and their families. The company has evolved organically from a simple domestic cleaning to "companion cleaning" and now a fully fledged Care in the Home organisation.

The day was an opportunity for clients to meet with other service users and socialise, (something which many of them find hard to do), and celebrate the success that Stiled Home Services have achieved in their first year in their new home.



It was evident from the miles of smiles and excited chatter that all those in attendance on the day were having a great time at the first Garden Party organised by Stiled. Burgers, hot dogs and sandwiches were

said Bev. He very rarely, if ever, goes out of the house so it was a big day for him today". Leo (93 years young) worked as an engineer in a tool room in a Birmingham factory during his working life.



available along with a very nice cake stall that had a mouth watering array of treats. A raffle was held to win a range of prizes donated for the day and several stalls offered prizes such as Guess The Weight of the Cake and How Many Sweets are in the Jar. The cake was won by Mr. And Mrs. Dalton. Originally from Coventry Mr. & Mrs. Dalton have been using the service for over a year now. "We have recommended Stiled Home Services to many of our friends and neighbours. They look after us so well, nothing is too much trouble. We really look forward to Monday's when our Carer comes to us." Also present on the day were Ken and Anne Quiney, the couple originally called Stiled in to provide Respite Care to cover a holiday period. They now take additional care in the home leaving Stiled to do more for them.

Bev Garrett, one of Stiled Home Services long serving employee was looking after Leo. "I have been Leo's carer for over 3 years now"

Another client Malcolm Oakley was also very appreciative of the work Stiled do for him. Malcolm (53) was involved in a serious motorcycle accident when he was 28 and need help around the home. The accident did not put him off - he can still regularly be seen on his Electric Mobility Scooter around the streets of Blackheath.

There were many more clients who beamed their satisfaction with the services Stiled have provided. It was refreshing to see the wide smiles and encouraging comments that were consistently coming from the Service Users on the day. "I think this will become an annual event now" said Michelle Hims, "We are planning a Christmas Party in December and hope to have the same result".

It is a credit to the company that they strive so hard to deliver the best possible care, but in reality it is the only standard acceptable. After all, when you are looking to provide care for yourself or a loved one, success has to be the "only" option. Getting it wrong can have unthinkable consequences.

## Staff Commitment Is the Key



Christine McManus, Principle of Stiled Home Services commented "This year has seen demand increase considerably as more people than ever are needing care and attention in the home. Our staff always respond when the demand dictates. We recently had a client who needed an extra 50 hours per week instantly due to a health issue deteriorating. Even though it was during one of our busiest periods with a lot of the staff on leave, they rallied round and solved the problem.

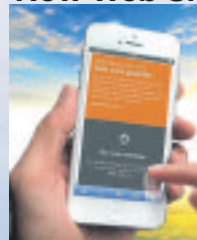
This demonstrates that our staff really do care about our clients.

### Tagtronic Computer System Commissioned

The company have recently installed new software that is aimed at improving integrity of the service they deliver. The Tagtronic System encompasses all the daily operations and ensures that the right staff are at the right clients at the right time. "This has ensured that our service users are always matched with the right carer that has the correct training and qualifications required to meet the needs of that specific client." said Christine McManus.

### New Web Site Goes Live

The new web site went live last month and has been well received. The site was created by UK Creative Web based in Halesowen and features large text for those who have issues with vision.



When you or your loved ones need care in the home, choose a company that *Really Cares*

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# Independent Family Funeral Directors

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In 1909 Joe Hickton a well known carpenter, builder, undertaker, local councillor and one time Mayor of Rowley Regis, opened a dedicated funeral home located in Lower High Street, Cradley Heath in the Black Country. His son William 'Bill' Hickton came in to the business in 1937 and the father and son partnership began carrying out funerals across Cradley Heath and the surrounding areas. Bill's son Trevor came in to the business in 1971 working closely with his father to continue building the company reputation. In 2005 the company was registered as a Limited UK company along with a name change to what it is today, Trevor E.W. Hickton Ltd Funeral Directors.

Trevor's son Ross came in to the business in 2007 and is now working closely with his father in the day to day running of the business and conducting of the funerals in the long established family business still located in Lower High Street. In late 2008 Trevor and Ross took over the running of R. Hadley Funeral Services in Halesowen. Carrying on the established business to the same standard and code of practice that of T. E. W. Hickton & T Hadley & Co. Trevor's other son Greg joined the business in 2010.

We offer advice on prepaid funeral plans. A funeral plan can save you money and provides invaluable peace of mind for you and your family. The reassurance gained from making arrangements in advance and these escalating costs are the reasons why nearly a million people in Britain have taken out a funeral plan.

A funeral plan is a thoughtful way of preparing for the future. It enables you to fix the cost of your funeral director's services at today's prices, no matter how much this may increase in the coming years. By choosing to plan ahead for your funeral, you and your loved ones will benefit from welcome peace of mind knowing that everything is taken care of in advance. Your thoughtfulness will relieve your grieving relatives of the financial strain and any worries about your funeral arrangements at a time of distress. Plus, you have the comfort of knowing that the arrangements which you particularly want, including the type of funeral, venue, music choices, readings and even flowers will be carried out exactly as you wish. Thinking about planning your own funeral can be daunting, which is why choosing the right funeral plan provider to ease you through the process can make all the difference.



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Halesowen. B63 2BZ  
01384 636606

# Living & Shopping in Halesowen & surrounding areas



Bridale Architectural Antiques, Cradley Heath, which has been filmed for *Salvage Hunters*. From left, hunter John Tee, owner Brian Smith and hunter Drew Pritchard

## Antiques shop TV slot

A TV treasure hunter has rummaged through the wares of a Black Country antiques shop in a bid to find hidden relics to restore to their former glory.

Drew Pritchard and his team from the Quest TV programme *Salvage Hunters* visited the Bridale Architectural Antiques shop in Cradley Heath yesterday.

Presenter Mr Pritchard along with his sidekick John Tee travel the country visiting various shops, warehouses, homes and buildings, hoping to uncover a bargain.

This week they have been filming for the fourth series of the show and have already visited Wollescote Hall and Donington Hall, before the nine strong team descended on the Graingers Lane shop.

Brian Smith, aged 69, who has owned Bridale Architectural Antiques for the past 30 years, said he was delighted when the team from *Salvage Hunters* asked him if they could visit.

The father-of-two and grandfather of five said: "I have watched the programme for ages, and I love all these types of antiques programmes and so was very pleased when they said they wanted to come. They have done quite a bit of filming and bought a few things. It has been good fun. They seem pleased with what they have found, and I'm looking forward to it being on the TV."

# Trade Prices to the Public

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**To advertise your business in next week's Halesowen Chronicle**

**Call David Hutchins on 01384 353250 NOW**





## Living & Shopping in Halesowen & surrounding areas



### PICTURES FROM THE PAST Temporary market opens up for business

**Remember when Cradley Heath's market set up camp in this temporary warehouse building?**

This picture from the Express & Star archives dates back to November 15, 1967. The caption at the time read: "Cradley Heath's temporary market was opened for business for the first time today - and trade was as brisk as ever."

The pre-fabricated building in Fox Street had been built at a cost of about 15,000 to house 78 stallholders for about two years, pending the creation of a new permanent market and shopping centre.

The temporary market was only 150 yards from the old building, but there was one minor hitch. The water supply had not been turned on and the toilets were out of action, meaning the tea stall was unable to open.

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## Making sure the day goes without a hitch

You've popped the question and sorted out a provisional date, now it's time to start the planning.

It's better to draw up a timescale list so that you can tick things once they are sorted avoiding a last-minute panic. Use a wedding calendar for the countdown to your big day. Read through this checklist to make sure you've got everything covered!



Place cards are something to go on your 'must get' list

### Things to do as soon as you become engaged

- Set a wedding budget
- Decide what tasks need completing and who is responsible for what
- Arrange a first meeting with your minister or priest to set a date
- If you are having a civil ceremony, book the register office or civil venue
- Make appointments with bridal boutiques
- Choose your witnesses, bridesmaids and groomsmen

### 12 Months before the big day

- Book venue for your wedding
- Set up a website to keep your friends up to date about your wedding
- Finalise guest list



Tick things off as you go along

### 9 months before the big day

- Book photographer
- Arrange to visit caterer
- Arrange to visit florist
- Choose dress
- Book honeymoon
- Book caterer

### 6 months before the big day

- Book florist
- Choose hairstylist
- Choose make-up artist
- Remind out of town guests to book accommodation

### 3 months before the big day

- Discuss the services and banns
- Select hymns and Order of Service/choose readings if desired.
- Ensure passports are up to date
- Arrange tasting of the food
- Discuss service details
- Send out wedding invitations

### 2 months before the big day

- Meet photographer to discuss
- Book trial make-up/hair session
- Organise hen and stag do
- Buy gifts for bridesmaids and parents of the bride and groom
- Confirm photographer/hairstylist/make-up/florist/caterer

### 1 month before the big day

- Go for final dress fitting
- Ensure you have paid suppliers
- Give notice of marriage to local register office (unless you are marrying in the Church of England/Church of Wales)

### 2 weeks before

- Confirm honeymoon bookings
- Get engagement ring cleaned
- Sort out currency for honeymoon
- Pick up wedding rings

### 1 week before

- Reconfirm details with venue
- Finalise seating plan
- Write place cards
- Organise note or gift to be delivered to your partner on the day
- Pack for your honeymoon
- Reconfirm photographer/hairstylist/make-up/florist/caterer
- Pick up wedding dress
- Arrange to have wedding cake delivered to your venue
- Make up the favours

### 1 day before

- Ensure nails are manicured
- Run through the order of the day with the bridal party

### On the day

- Stay calm and enjoy yourself!

Information from  
[www.weddingsite.co.uk](http://www.weddingsite.co.uk)

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## CLUB NEWS

### Life made easier for the blind

#### TRYSULL & SEISDON WI

THERE was no meeting in August but several members enjoyed a Treasure Hunt around Wombourne village followed by a meal.

President Sue Cottrell introduced Peter Moodie to the September meeting. He is from the Beacon Centre for the Blind and told a little of his history.

In 1875 Wolverhampton Society for the Blind was formed and in 1926 became Wolverhampton & District Institute for the Blind. In 1963 it moved to its present site near Sedgley, where the new building was built in 2009.

The Beacon Centre has 72 residential apartments with their own kitchens, where people are encouraged to live independently. A day centre offers a wide range of activities such as bowls, pottery, crafts and IT.

There is also a gym and a youth club. Outside activities include ice-skating, meals out and gardening. There is an employment suite to help people find work and the centre offers free advice and the chance to purchase aids to make everyday life a little easier.

After refreshments Clare Preece organised a quiz, won by Jo Johns and Pam Waldren. Rita Brown won the competition for a scented posy.

At the next meeting on October 17, at Trysull Village Hall, the ladies will be making card boxes with Anne Bayliss. The competition is a handmade Victorian style card.

### Guest sets stage for return to home soil

#### WORDSLEY 'M' TOWNSWOMEN

CHAIRMAN for the day Wendy Lloyd welcomed everyone to the September meeting.

Federation events, given by Ann Birchell, were of the Harvest Supper on October 9, Music Moments at Norton on October 31, the Carol Service on December 14 and a St George's Day event on April 24 next year.

The lunch club will meet at The Mount Pleasant, Kingswinford on October 7 and the Christmas Meal is booked at the Himley Hotel on December 2.

Wendy introduced Linda Kettle who was to be on 'home territory again' having been born in Rowley Regis. Linda gained an O-Level in craft & theatre set design, attended Foley College at Stourbridge Art College doing 'A' Level art and then Birmingham School of Theatre Design.

Moving on to London Linda gained further experience in designing dresses



Linda Kettle has met Julie Walters and Prince Charles

and wigs for stage and TV period dramas, meeting many well-known stars including Sean Connery, when designing part of the set of You Only Live Twice.

Others include Prince Charles, Princess Anne, Cliff Richard, Julie Walters, John Cleese and Bruce Forsyth.

Linda worked at Pebble Mill designing and creating many varied and diverse sets and back-ground scenery for

30 years. Her work on Pot Black led her to meeting all the snooker stars.

James Herriot's 'All Creatures Great and Small' was one of her favourite involvements. Linda brought along models of some of the sets she had designed also many photographs of the programmes on which her sets were used. The next Guild meeting is on Monday October 21 with a quiz and bingo.

## Update on shoebox collection

#### GRANGE 'E' GUILD

Marlene at the October meeting or at the very latest in November. The completed boxes will then be delivered to a central collection point.

The evening continued with the harvest supper prepared and served by committee members. All members

agreed that the evening had been a huge success and the meal was very enjoyable.

The next meeting will be held at Grange Court on October 1 when the guest speaker will be Ian Bott on 'Lost Mansions'.

All visitors will be made most welcome. For further information contact secretary Jean Williams on 01384 832439.



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#### FORTHCOMING HOLIDAYS

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5-13	ITALIAN HOUSE PARTY & MONTE CARLO	£679.50
7-11	ENCHANTING EASTBOURNE	£269.50
7-11	SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS, STEAM & CRUISE	£329.50
14-18	ISLE OF WIGHT & SANDOWN	£279.50
12-20	TREASURES OF TUSCANY	£679.50
28-11	TORQUAY'S ENGLISH RIVIERA	£219.50
28-11	LAKE DISTRICT, FELLIS & TARNIS	£289.50
NOVEMBER		
2-3	A4 GREAT STEAM LOCOS IN YORK	£89.50
3-4	BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS	£95.00
8-11	WESTON SUPER MARE CARNIVAL	£179.50
9-10	KENSINGTON PALACE & ST PAUL CATHEDRAL	£119.50
11-15	SCOTLAND'S TARTAN, LOCHS & GLENS	£199.50
13-15	THURSFORD XMAS SPECTACULAR	£235.00
17-18	DURHAM'S LUMIERE LIGHT FESTIVAL	£79.50
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25-29	BOURNEMOUTH & SALISBURY	£199.50
29-212	LLANDUDNO FESTIVE SPARKLE	£219.50
30-112	YORK DICKENSIAN MARKET	£95.00
DECEMBER		
2-6	SCOTTISH CASTLES EXPERIENCE	£319.50
7-8	LINCOLN CHRISTMAS MARKET	£95.00
11-13	THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR	£235.00
14-15	SKIPTON YULETIDE CHRISTMAS MARKET	£89.50
19-21	ROYAL ALBERT HALL CHRISTMAS CAROLS	£199.50
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24-27	CHRISTMAS IN CUMBRIA	£399.50
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30-11	NEW YEAR IN LONDON	£215.00
31-21	NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS & WINDSOR	£215.00

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22nd MYSTERY DAY OUT & 2 COURSE LUNCH	£32.50	£31.00
23rd WESTONBIRT ARBORETUM	£31.00	£29.50
24th BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS	£25.00	£25.00
25th NATIONAL ARBORETUM 1940's LUNCH	£40.00	£40.00
NOVEMBER		
13th ETON COLLEGE TOUR & WINDSOR	£39.50	£37.50
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16th WADDESDON MANOR FESTIVE SCENES	£37.50	£36.00
19th JCB FACTORY TOUR & LUNCH	£41.00	£39.50
20th NATIONAL GUIDE DOG CENTRE TOUR	£22.00	£21.00
24th CHATSWORTH HOUSE FESTIVE SCENES	£41.00	£39.50
25th ROYAL ALBERT HALL GUIDED TOUR	£41.00	£39.50
26th TATTON PARK XMAS SPECTACULAR	£55.00	£52.50
27th PEAK DISTRICT CRUISE & LUNCH	£39.00	£39.00
28th MYSTERY DAY OUT & 2 COURSE LUNCH	£35.00	£32.50
29th WORCESTER XMAS MARKET & LUNCH	£39.50	£37.50
DECEMBER		
2nd CHESTER CHRISTMAS MARKET	£23.00	£22.00
3rd CHESHIRE OAKS DESIGNER OUTLET	£23.00	£22.00
4th WARWICK CASTLE WINTER SCENES	£35.00	£32.50
5th NEWARK ANTIQUES COLLECTORS FAIR	£35.00	£32.50
6th LIVERPOOL & CHRISTMAS LUNCH	£35.00	£32.50
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8th BLENHEIM PALACE & CHRISTMAS LUNCH	£49.00	£49.00
9th CIRENCESTER CHRISTMAS MARKET	£24.00	£23.00
10th CHRISTMAS AT HADDON HALL	£34.00	£32.50
14th RIVER THAMES XMAS LUNCH CRUISE & LONDON EYE	£69.50	£67.50
15th CHRISTMAS AT HAMPTON COURT & LUNCH	£59.50	£55.00

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# What's On! Halesowen

## Viva Glasvegas at The Slade Rooms

GLASVEGIAN rockers Glasvegas, who made a big noise in 2008 with hit single Daddy's Gone, are returning to Wolverhampton on Friday, October 4, for a gig at The Slade Rooms.

Led by singer and guitarist James Allan, the band are known for his emotional songs rooted in the harsh realities of life.

Recorded in their home city, third studio album *Later... When The TV Turns To Static*, was released earlier this month.

It is guitar-driven and passionately performed, particularly the tracks *Choices* and *I'd Rather Be Dead (Than Be With You)*. The nearest to anthems are *If* and album closer *Finished Sympathy*.

Tickets cost £15 plus fees, call 0870 320 7000 or see [www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk) website.

Meanwhile, 1980s favourites *The Primitives* are at The Slade Rooms tonight and legendary 74-year-old drummer Ginger Baker (ex-Cream, PIL) brings his *Jazz Confusion* to the Wulfrun tomorrow.

## Caro mum-to-be postpones tour

DUTCH jazz-pop singer Caro Emerald, 32, who had a sold-out concert at the Symphony Hall last week, has announced her spring tour including Birmingham NIA date in March is postponed to October 11, after revealing she is pregnant. Purchased tickets will be valid for the new date.

# Champagne comedy promises to be a Noel Coward corker

## Perfect nine for South's song legacy

NINE-PIECE band The South, featuring two former singers from *The Beautiful South*, are keeping alive the repertoire from the 20-year career of one of the UK's favourite bands of the 1990s.

After *The Beautiful South* split in 2007 and main frontman Paul Heaton went solo, fellow founder Dave Hemmingway and Alison Wheeler, who had replaced Jacqui Abbott in 2003, decided to carry on with the help of several stalwarts from the touring band.

### Debut

They will be performing songs from their debut album *Sweet Refrains* plus such *Beautiful South* favourites as *Rotterdam*, *Don't Marry Her*, *You Keep It All In*, *Perfect Ten* and many others at Bilston's Robin 2 venue at Mount Pleasant on Tuesday, October 1.

Call the box office on 01902 401211.



Singers Alison Wheeler and Dave Hemmingway with members of The South, continuing the music of The Beautiful South and coming to Bilston's Robin 2

A REVIVAL of Noel Coward's Champagne-popping comedy *Fallen Angels*, teaming-up stage and screen actresses Jenny Seagrove and Sara Crowe as best friends Julia and Jane, is staged at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

Apart from doing wonders for the sales of Philadelphia cheese, Sara Crowe is probably best known as the first bride in *Four Weddings And A Funeral*. She has gone on to success in West End productions, specialising in Noel Coward plays.

### Lover

Jenny Seagrove is a familiar face as barrister Jo Mills in *Judge John Deed* but is also a West End regular. She had a starring role in the recent hit revival of Coward's *Volcano*. Noel Coward's 1925 farce *Fallen Angels* tells of a pair of bored wives who pop open the Champagne when a mutual former lover decides to call but too much liquid courage leads to unexpected results.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's stunning arena production of rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar*, featuring his TV viewer-selected Jesus, Ben Forster, alongside Tim Minchin – the real star as Judas – and Melanie C as Mary Magdalene plus a



It's liquid courage for Jenny Seagrove and Sara Crowe as Julia and Jane in *Fallen Angels*

cameo by Chris Moyles as King Herod, returns a year on from its debut in Birmingham. The Thursday, October 3, spectacular at the NIA will be its final encore.

As *The Lion King* finally roars off, Birmingham Hippodrome welcomes back its home company when Birmingham Royal Ballet perform a triple bill. *Tombeaux, E=mc2* and *Still Life At The Penguin Cafe* will be staged from October 3 to 5, then *Sleeping Beauty* arrives.

## GAME REVIEWS

### Saints and the sinners

Grand Theft Auto V (18, Rockstar)

PEOPLE queued at midnight to get this game and, in a grim case of life imitating Grand Theft Auto, some were even mugged for their copy.

GTA upsets moral guardians, although they probably don't get its dark humour. The series is violent, swear, morally dubious. So is part five and that will please fans.

Does GTA V live up to the hype accorded a 170 million dollar blockbuster? Oh yes. Rockstar have put the money on screen, creating the massive open-world arena of Los Santos, an alternative Los Angeles. The visuals are stunning and the freedom to explore the city, though partly an illusion, is liberating.

Gamers can choose from a cast of crooks as they play a part in an action-packed crime drama that doesn't let up from the first flashback bank heist.

Saints Row IV (18, Volition)

A CRAZY alternative to *Grand Theft Auto*. The graphics are not perfect but SRIV is a fun spoof of GTA and its clones.

Street gang *The Saints* have made it to the White House after saving the US from nuclear apocalypse – in an action-packed prologue – and then face an alien invasion. As one of the characters says: "The Saints don't do subtle".

Reviewed on X360 LB

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## What's On!

## SATURDAY'S TV 28.09.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

## CHOICE



**Atlantis**  
**BBC1, 8.25pm**  
The Beeb's fantasy adventure replacement for Merlin focused on a young lad called Jason (played by Misfits and House of Anubis star Jack Donnelly) who, while searching for his missing father, is washed up on the shores of a mysterious land, a place where mythical creatures, soothsaying oracles and palaces seemingly built by giants are commonplace. Although it's a place full of wonder, Jason's new home is also fraught with danger, as he discovers when he's forced to take part in a ritual so dangerous, it could result in death. Mark Addy and Sarah Parish also star.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Live Cycling: Road World Championships. **4.00** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.30** I Love My Country. **6.15** **The Wonder of Dogs**. With Colin Baker, Pam Ferris, Martin Jarvis and Matthew Kelly. **7.00** **Strictly Come Dancing**. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly host the second of this weekend's live shows, as the remainder of the couples take to the floor. **8.25** **Atlantis**. New series. Fledgling hero Jason goes in search of his father, only to be washed up on the shores of a mysterious land. Fantasy drama, starring Jack Donnelly and Mark Addy. **9.15** **The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws**. Matt Johnson presents as the balls are set rolling. **9.25** **Casualty**. Iain helps a teenager who was caught up in a fatal car crash as he struggles to face up to the truth, while Fletch decides to shoulder the blame for Tess's mistake. **10.15** **BBC News**; Weather. **10.30** **Match of the Day**. Including highlights of Tottenham Hotspur v Chelsea and Swansea City v Arsenal; National Lottery Update. **11.55** **The Football League Show**. Highlights of the latest games in the Football League. **1.10** Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** This Is BBC Two. **6.30** **Film: From This Day Forward**. (1946) **8.00** **Film: A Damsel in Distress**. (1937) **9.40** **Reel History of Britain**. (R) **10.10** **The Life of Birds**. (R) **11.00** **Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age**. (R) **11.30** **University Challenge**. (R) **12.00** **The A to Z of TV Cooking**. **12.45** **The Hairy Bakers**. **1.00** **Live MotoGP 2.05** **EastEnders**. **4.00** **Live Cycling: Road World Championships**. **5.15** **Flog It!** (R) **6.00** **The Wonder of Dogs**. (R) **7.00** **Dad's Army**. The men head off for a weekend at a training camp. (R) **7.30** **Count Arthur Strong**. The former variety star is offered a bit-part in a radio play. (R) **8.00** **The 70s**. Historian Dominic Sandbrook examines the decade, touching on the housing boom, the arrival of thousands of Ugandan refugees and the 1972 miners' strike. (R) **9.00** **Mock the Week**. With Rob Beckett, James Ranganathan and Josh Widdicombe. (R) **9.30** **The Sarah Millican Slightly Longer Television Programme**. Extended edition, with Quentin Willson, Bradley Walsh and Richard Osman. **10.10** **Dara O Briain - Craic Dealer**. The comedian in performance at Edinburgh Playhouse. **11.10** **Film: Wonder Boys**. (2000) A washed-up professor is given the inspiration to finish his latest novel by a student who shows him a new perspective on life. Drama, starring Michael Douglas. **12.55** **Film: Distant Voices**. Still Lives. (1990) **2.15** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** **Matt Hatter Chronicles**. (R) **6.35** **Dino Dan**. (R) **6.50** **Dino Dan**. (R) **7.00** **Animals**. (R) **7.10** **Animals**. (R) **7.15** **Animals**. (R) **7.25** **Sooty**. **7.35** **Horrid Henry**. (R) **7.45** **Horrid Henry**. (R) **8.00** **Bottom Knockout Street**. **8.15** **Bottom Knockout Street**. **8.30** **Fish Hooks**. **8.45** **Fish Hooks**. **9.00** **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles**. **9.25** **ITV News**. **9.30** **Saturday Cookbook**. (R) **10.25** **Murder, She Wrote**. (R) **11.25** **ITV News**; Weather. **11.35** **Surprise Surprise**. (R) **12.35** **All Star Family Fortunes**. (R) **1.20** **Catchphrase**. (R) **2.05** **Doc Martin**. (R) **3.05** **The X Factor**. (R) **4.05** **Film: Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles**. (2001) **5.55** **Regional Programme**; Weather. **6.05** **ITV News**; Weather. **6.20** **You've Been Framed and Famous!** Harry Hill narrates a selection of the best celebrity look-alike clips sent in by viewers, featuring people resembling Tom Cruise, Britney Spears and Prince Harry. (R) **7.20** **Stepping Out**. The final, featuring a performance by Diversity. Last in the series. **8.20** **The X Factor**. The singers who impressed at the double auditions now face a tougher challenge as they gather at Wembley Arena for the first part of boot camp. **9.50** **Through the Keyhole**. Larry Lamb and Emma Bunton join Dave Berry on the panel. **10.50** **ITV News**; Weather. **11.05** **Film: 10,000 BC**. (2008) Fantasy adventure, starring Steven Strait. **1.00** **Jackpot247**. **3.00** **The Jeremy Kyle Show USA**. (R) **3.4** **ITV Nightscreen**.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15** **British F3**. **6.40** **The Grid**. **7.05** **The Great North Swim**. **8.00** **The Morning Line**. **9.00** **The American Football Show**. **10.05** **Fraser**. (R) **10.35** **Everybody Loves Raymond**. (R) **11.05** **The Big Bang Theory**. (R) **11.30** **The Big Bang Theory**. (R) **12.00** **The Simpsons**. (R) **12.30** **The Secret Millionaire USA**. (R) **1.30** **Channel 4 Racing**. **4.10** **Come Dine with Me**. (R) **4.40** **Come Dine with Me**. (R) **5.10** **Come Dine with Me**. (R) **5.45** **Come Dine with Me**. (R) **6.15** **Come Dine with Me**. Jilly Pollock hosts the fifth and final party in Liverpool. (R) **6.40** **Channel 4 News**. **7.00** **Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.** Comic-book drama co-created by Joss Whedon, in which Agent Phil Coulson (Clark Gregg) assembles a group of highly skilled operatives to investigate strange new cases. (R) **8.00** **Grand Designs**. A Marine who was seriously injured in Afghanistan begins a project to build a specially adapted home with a cutting-edge design, on a budget of £250,000. (R) **9.00** **Film: The Taking of Pelham 123**. (2009) Criminals hijack a crowded New York subway train and threaten to kill the passengers unless they are paid \$10million. Thriller remake, with Denzel Washington and John Travolta. **11.10** **Film: Hitman**. (2007) Action thriller, starring Timothy Olyphant, Dougray Scott and Olga Kurylenko. **1.00** **Film: The Informers**. (2008) **2.35** **Hollyoaks**. (R) **4.45** **Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites**. **4.55** **Countdown**. (R) **5.40** **Blancpain Endurance Series**.

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** **Milkshake!** **10.15** **Power Rangers: Megaforce**. **10.50** **Sluggerra**. **11.15** **Inside Hollywood**. **11.20** **Animal Maternity**. (R) **12.15** **Cowboy Builders**. (R) **1.15** **Film: Columbo: Caution - Murder Can Be Hazardous to Your Health**. (1991) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.10** **Film: The Kentuckian**. (1955) Western, starring Burt Lancaster. **5.15** **Film: The Magnificent Seven**. (1960) Western, with Yul Brynner, Steve McQueen, James Coburn and Charles Bronson. **7.45** **Film: The Wonderful Country**. (1959) A tough lone gunman returns from exile in Mexico to take on risky work with the Texas Rangers patrolling the border. Western, with Robert Mitchum, Julie London and Pedro Armendariz. **9.40** **5 News Weekend**. **9.45** **Film: Point Break**. (1991) An undercover FBI agent infiltrates a Californian surfing gang to investigate a spate of armed robberies. Kathryn Bigelow's thriller, starring Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze. **12.05** **SuperCasino**. Live interactive gaming. **3.55** **Michaela's Wild Challenge**. Michaela Strachan tries to survive on a desert island. (R) **4.20** **Make It Big**. A visit to a radio station ends badly. (R) **4.50** **Roary the Racing Car**. Disaster strikes at Silver Hatch when Big Chris falls asleep on the job. (R) **5.00** **Angels of Jarm**. (R) **5.05** **Hana's Helpline**. A piglet grows tired of her brother. (R) **5.20** **Angels of Jarm**. (R) **5.25** **The Funky Valley Show**. Double bill. Clara thinks she has laid an egg. (R) **5.40** **Roary the Racing Car**. Helix makes an emergency landing. (R) **5.50** **Hana's Helpline**. Francis's grandma comes to visit. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** **Robin Hood** **7.45** **Doctor Who** **8.30** **Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You** **9.00** **Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl** (2003) **11.15** **Family Guy** **BBC Four**  
**7.00** **Africa** **8.00** **Lost Kingdoms of Africa** **9.00** **The Young Montalbano** **10.50** **What's Going On? The Life and Death of Marvin Gaye** **11.50** **Charles Bradley: Soul of America** **ITV2**  
**3.00** **Peter Andre: My Life** **4.00** **Kings of Leon: The Hot Desk** **4.15** **You've Been Framed!** **5.45** **Film: Happy Feet** (2006) **7.50** **Film: Evan Almighty** (2007) **9.50** **The Xtra Factor** **10.50** **Celebrity Juice** **11.40** **The Magaluf Weekender** **ITV3**  
**2.05** **Film: The Count of Monte Cristo** (2002) **4.45** **Agatha Christie's Marple** **7.00** **Foyle's War** **9.00** **Midsomer Murders** **11.00** **Wire in the Blood** **ITV4**  
**1.25** **Film: Spartacus** (1960) **5.10** **British Superbike Championship Highlights** **6.10** **Film: Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment** (1985) **8.00** **Hornblower** **10.20** **Film: Schindler's List** (1993) **E4**  
**4.05** **Rules of Engagement** **5.00** **How I Met Your Mother** **6.00** **The Big Bang Theory** **7.00** **How I Met Your Mother** **7.30** **Suburgatory** **8.00** **New Girl** **9.00** **Film: Marley and Me** (2008) **11.20** **The Big Bang Theory** **11.50** **Rude Tube: Total Fails** **Film4**  
**2.50** **Von Ryan's Express** (1965) **5.15** **Meet Dave** (2008) **7.05** **My Super Ex-Girlfriend** (2006) **9.00** **Sleeping with the Enemy** (1991) Thriller, starring Julia Roberts. **10.55** **Alien** (1979)

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## What's On!

## SUNDAY'S TV 29.09.13

## CHOICE



Christopher Reeve

**Superman Channel 5, 6.20pm**  
Richard Donner's 1978 blockbuster was the first A-list superhero epic in history, and is as entertaining today as when it was released. The movie examines Kal-El's origins; how he was rocketed from his dying home world of Krypton, crash-landed on Earth, raised as a normal teenager, and then went to the city of Metropolis to fight for truth, justice and the American way. The fact it can warm the coldest heart, and leave kids perched on the edge of their seat is testament to how good this 35-year-old classic still is. Christopher Reeve stars.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 7.30 Match of the Day. (R) 8.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Sunday Politics. 12.15 MOTD2 Extra. 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 3.00 Ronnie's Animal Crackers. (R) 3.30 Ronnie's Animal Crackers. (R) 4.00 Points of View. 4.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 5.00 Songs of Praise. 5.35 Britain's Big Wildlife Revival. 6.35 BBC News: Regional News; Weather. 7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison visit the Shropshire town of Ludlow during its annual food and drink festival, and Tom Heap looks at the threat posed by non-native plants and animals. 8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Items at the Royal Agricultural University near Cirencester include a tea caddy used for a budgie's ashes and possibly the last signatures made by Edward VIII before his abdication. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations. 9.00 By Any Means. A girl's body is found in the boot of a car belonging to a well-respected judge, and Helen is convinced the accused has been framed by an ex-policeman with a personal vendetta. 10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather. 10.25 Match of the Day 2. Highlights of the latest Premier League matches. 11.25 Film: New Town Killers. (2008) Thriller, starring Dougray Scott. 1.00 Weather. 1.05 BBC News.**

## BBC2

**6.00 Film: Borderline. (1950) 7.30 Around the World in 80 Days. (R) 8.30 Gardeners' World. (R) 9.00 The Beechgrove Garden. 9.30 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.00 James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) 11.30 James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) 12.00 James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) 12.30 Live MotoGP. 2.15 Live Cycling: Road World Championships. 4.15 Flog It! (R) 5.00 Rugby League: Super League Play-Offs. 6.00 Great British Railway Journeys. The role Weymouth played in the D-Day landings. (R) 6.30 The Great British Bake Off. The remaining contestants face three tasks involving sweet dough. (R) 7.30 The Ginge, the Georgie and the Geek. New series. Comedy sketch show, starring Graeme Rooney, Paul Charton and Kevin O'Loughlin. 8.00 The Crane Gang. High winds lead to jobs being cancelled across the country. 9.00 The Story of the Jews. The Holocaust and the creation of the state of Israel. Last in the series. 10.00 The Wrong Mans. Comedy thriller, starring James Corden and Mathew Baynton. (R) 10.30 QI XL. Extended edition, with Sue Perkins, Ross Noble and David Mitchell. 11.15 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R) 11.45 Film: Sus. (2010) Drama, starring Clint Dyer and Ralph Brown. 1.15 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 2.10 Holby City. (R) 3.10 This Is BBC Two.**

## ITV

**6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. 6.10 Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Animals. (R) 7.10 Animals. (R) 7.15 Animals. (R) 7.25 Sooty. 7.35 Horrid Henry. (R) 7.45 Horrid Henry. (R) 8.00 Bottom Knockers. 8.15 Bottom Knockers. 8.30 Fish Hooks. 8.45 Fish Hooks. 9.00 Big Time Rush. 9.25 Political Slot. 5.30 American 10.25 Film: Columbus: Dagger of the Mind. (1972) 12.25 ITV News: Weather. 12.35 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 1.35 The X Factor. (R) 3.05 You've Been Framed! (R) 3.35 Big Star's Little Star. (R) 4.35 Downton Abbey. (R) 6.05 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.15 ITV News: Weather. 6.30 Surprise Surprise. A father and daughter are reunited. 7.30 The X Factor. The remaining acts have a final chance to impress Gary Barlow, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh before the line-up of the judges' houses round is revealed. 9.00 Downton Abbey. Mary takes an interest in the running of the estate, but meets firm resistance from her father. Lady Rose MacClare finds herself in a predicament at a tea dance in York. 10.05 ITV News: Weather. 10.20 Film: Larry Crowne. (2011) Premiere. Comedy drama, starring Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts. 12.10 Premiership Rugby Union. 1.00 The Store. 3.00 British Superbike Championship Highlights. 3.55 Motorsport UK. 4.40 ITV NightScreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)**

## CHANNEL 4

**6.35 The American Football Show. (R) 7.30 American Football: Hard Knocks. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.20 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.50 The Simpsons. (R) 1.20 The Simpsons. (R) 1.50 Film: The Net. (1995) 4.00 Location, Location, Location. (R) 5.05 Channel 4 News. 5.25 The Political Slot. 5.30 American Football: Minnesota Vikings v Pittsburgh Steelers (Kick-off 6.00pm). 8.00 Kevin McCloud's Man Made Home. Having moved his cabin to the beach, Kevin doubles the floor space with a new sun lounge, puts up a hammock and dives in London's oldest dock in search of junk to recycle. 9.00 Big Fat Quiz of the 90s. Jonathan Ross, Jo Brand, Sue Perkins, Lee Mack, Bob Mortimer and Richard Ayoade demonstrate how much they remember about the 1990s. Jimmy Carr asks the questions. 10.35 Googlebox. Some of Britain's most opinionated viewers comment on shows from the past seven days, including The X Factor and The Great British Bake Off. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R) 11.20 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. Alan celebrates the show's 100th episode, with chat and music by Justin Timberlake and Rihanna, and boxer David Haye's thoughts about his upcoming bout with Tyson Fury. (R) 12.35 Paddy's TV Guide. (R) 1.15 American Football Live. 4.45 British (R) 5.10 Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind: Golf. (R) 5.15 Deal or No Deal. (R)**

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Filby and the Flowerets. (R) 6.25 Bubble Guppies. (R) 6.35 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.50 Chloe's Closet. (R) 7.00 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.20 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 7.25 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.40 City of Friends. (R) 7.55 Little Princess. (R) 8.20 Mio Mao. (R) 8.25 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 8.45 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.15 Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) 9.25 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 9.40 Jelly Jamm. (R) 10.00 The Mr Men Show. (R) 10.15 Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) 10.50 Supertiger. 11.15 Inside Hollywood. 11.20 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.20 James Bond: The True Story. (R) 1.20 Film: Vertical Limit. (2000) 3.40 Film: Close Encounters of the Third Kind: The Director's Cut. (1977) 6.20 Film: Superman. (1978) Comic-strip adventure, with Christopher Reeve and Margot Kidder. 8.55 5 News Weekend. 9.00 Film: Gone in 60 Seconds. (2000) A veteran car thief is forced to pull off an extremely complex heist to save his brother from the gangster holding him hostage. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage and Angelina Jolie. 11.25 Film: Timecop. (1994) Sci-fi adventure, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme. 1.15 SuperCasino. 3.55 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 4.20 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.10 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.25 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.50 Hana's Helpline. (R)**

Listings supplied by Press Association

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes  
7.10 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You 7.40 Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (2006) 10.00 Family Guy 10.45 Staying in with Greg & Russell 11.15 American Dad!  
**BBC Four**  
7.00 Miss Marple 7.50 The Rabbits of Skomer 8.00 Fabric of Britain 9.00 Secret Voices of Hollywood 10.30 Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies 11.35 Proms on Four: John Wilson's Hollywood Rhapsody  
**ITV2**  
2.10 Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) 4.40 The X Factor 6.10 The Xtra Factor 7.10 Film: Mr. Bean's Holiday (2007) 9.00 The Xtra Factor 10.00 Film: Fast & Furious (2009)  
**ITV3**  
3.45 Film: The Railway Children (1970) 6.00 Murder, She Wrote 7.00 Lewis 9.00 Film: The Life of David Gale (2003) 11.35 Bomb Girls  
**ITV4**  
11.15 Live British Touring Car Championship. The ninth round of the season from Silverstone. 6.00 Goodwood Revival 2013 7.00 Minder 8.00 Premiership Rugby Union 9.00 Film: Firefox (1982) 11.45 Film: Memphis Belle (1990)  
**E4**  
4.50 How I Met Your Mother 6.15 Rules of Engagement 6.45 The Big Bang Theory 8.10 Film: The Spy Next Door (2010) 10.00 New Rude Tube 11.00 The Big Bang Theory  
**Film4**  
2.55 The Straight Story (1999) 5.10 Ice Age (2002) 6.55 Employee of the Month (2006) 9.00 Transporter 3 (2008) 11.05 Black Book (2006)

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## What's On!

### Film Choices

#### MONDAY

##### Hostel, Channel 5, 11pm

Three backpackers travelling across Europe hear of a Slovakian inn where their every hedonistic desire will be met. However, they discover they have been lured into the clutches of wealthy depraved businessmen who pay for the chance to torture people to death. Horror, starring Jay Hernandez and Eythor Gudjonsson. (2005)

#### TUESDAY

##### Siege of the Saxons, Channel 4, 1.30pm

King Arthur is betrayed and killed by one of his knights, who has formed an alliance with an invading Saxon horde and intends to seize the throne himself. However, the dead monarch's daughter is rescued by an outlaw, who seeks the aid of Merlin in ensuring the crown passes to her instead of the villainous usurper. Medieval adventure, starring Ronald Lewis. (1963)

#### WEDNESDAY

##### Judgment Night, BBC1, 11.45pm

Four suburbanites are stranded in Chicago's tough West Side while on their way to a boxing match. They experience a chilling night of terror when they see a gangland murder and must flee for their lives from the killer, who is determined to leave no witnesses. Thriller, starring Emilio Estevez, Stephen Dorff, Cuba Gooding Jr, Jeremy Piven and Denis Leary. (1993)



The Hand That Rocks the Cradle, Friday BBC1, 11.35pm

#### THURSDAY

##### Magicians, ITV, 10.35pm

A conjuring double act comes to an end after an unfortunate accident with a guillotine. Set on separate careers, the pair become bitter rivals bent on sabotaging each other's performance at any opportunity - until the prospect of winning a prestigious international contest offers the incentive to bury the hatchet and join forces once again. Comedy, with David Mitchell. (2007)

#### FRIDAY

##### Mickey Blue Eyes, ITV, 10.35pm

A strait-laced Englishman falls for a New York mobster's daughter, who wants to escape her family's criminal connections. However, try as he may, he realises there is virtually no way to avoid being drawn into its members' illegal activities. Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant, Jeanne Tripplehorn and Burt Young. (1999)

##### The Hand That Rocks the Cradle, BBC1, 11.35pm

A doctor is caught molesting a patient and commits suicide, after which his wife has a miscarriage. She blames his victim for her losses and plans to get revenge, infiltrating the unsuspecting woman's house as a nanny and playing twisted mind games to destroy her life. Thriller, starring Rebecca De Mornay. (1992)

### Pick of the Week

## Legend of the lost city is brought back to life

There are some genres that just fit into Saturday evening's TV schedules perfectly, and being without them seems weird.

Talent shows are a given these days, as are glossy light entertainment programmes. And you certainly can't miss out on a fantasy adventure.

Doctor Who is the granddaddy of them all, but will be off our screens until the 50th anniversary edition, set to be broadcast on November 23rd.

In recent years, the likes of Robin Hood and Merlin have fulfilled the requirement whenever the Time Lord has been off air, but now there's a new show on the block.

It feels as if the Beeb has been showing the trailer for Atlantis every five minutes lately; they've obviously pushed the boat out when it comes to the budget and so are desperate for it to gain a decent audience.

However, what the corporation hasn't done is tell us about the plot.

What we do know is that it focuses on a young lad called Jason who, while searching for his missing father,

is washed up on the shores of a mysterious land, a place where mythical creatures, soothing oracles and palaces seemingly built by giants are commonplace.

Although it's a place full of wonder, Jason's new home is also fraught with danger, as he discovers when he's forced to take part in a ritual so dangerous, it could result in death. Heading the cast is Jack Donnelly, and the series is set to make him a star; he will probably already look familiar to fans of Misfits and House of Anubis thanks to his recurring roles on them.

But here he plays Jason, whose life is about to undergo a dramatic change. He's always been an outsider, but finally finds friendship in Atlantis with Pythagoras and Hercules.

But don't panic, although the name of the Greek mathematician will send shivers down the spine of those who tried to deal with his theories about triangles during school lessons, here he's a youngster with a big heart who's about to have a lot of adventures.

He's played by Robert Emmis, who most recently popped up in Kick-Ass 2.

Also involved in the three-way bromance is Hercules - but he isn't quite as you've seen him before.

Back in the 1990s, Kevin Sorbo played the legendary hero as a muscle-bound hunk. Here he's played by The Full Monty star Mark Addy, and it's clear that the character is no longer in the peak of his prime.

"I am very excited to be invited along on this epic adventure," says the York-born star. "The scripts bring to life ancient myths with such a vibrancy and sense of humour; I knew I wanted to be a part of it."

Also set to feature are Sarah Parish and Juliet Stevenson; the BBC's controller of drama commissioning, Ben Stephenson, is certainly impressed by the calibre of those involved.

He says: "The fantastic cast announced for Atlantis is testament to the ambition and scale of Howard Overman's scripts. Some of the UK's best-loved actors are joining our newest talent to take the BBC1 audience to a rich and wonderful world where any adventure is possible."



Jack Donnelly stars in Atlantis, Saturday, BBC1, 8.25pm

### Best of the Rest

#### MONDAY

##### Gadget Man

##### Channel 4, 8.30pm

For us technophobes, Richard Aycoade is nothing short of a godsend. Trying not to think about the fact that this comedy genius will shortly no longer be on our screens in The IT crowd (sob, sniff), the way he talks us through the idiots' guide to the newest of technology and gadgets is something of a lifesaver. This week, Richard's looking at DIY, something of which he's definitely not a fan. He's testing out the latest safety tools, building machinery and lawnmowers, all of which promise to take the strain and pain out of home decorating. Richard also sets himself a personal challenge; to make over a room in his house using robots and gadgets, thus not having to lift a finger himself.

##### Broadmoor: The Inside Story

##### Channel 5, 9pm

Thinking about the type of people it has caged is enough to make you shudder, but Broadmoor is approaching a significant anniversary, having been home to Britain's most notorious killers for 150 years. This two-part documentary explores the history of the world's most famous and feared hospital; from the Victorian era to the present day. This first instalment takes a look at Broadmoor as it is today. Surrounded by barbed wire and high-level security, the facility is home to some of country's most deranged and dangerous minds. In 1863, Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum opened, as the law declared it immoral to blame the insane for crimes and send them to the gallows...

#### TUESDAY

##### The Stephen Lawrence Unity Concert

##### BBC1, 10.35pm

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the murder of teenager Stephen Lawrence, but the repercussions of the shocking crime are still being felt. On Sunday, September 29, his life and legacy are being celebrated with a special concert at the O2 Arena - and some of the biggest names in British music are taking part. It's an impressively eclectic line-up, featuring Ellie Goulding, Rita Ora, Beverley Knight, Emeli Sande, Rizzle Kicks, Labrinth, Plan B, Jessie J, Tinie Tempah, Rudimental, Soul II Soul and Ed Sheeran. There's even a bit of jazz for the grown-ups, courtesy of Jamie Cullum. If you couldn't make it to the concert, the BBC are bringing us some of the highlights.

#### WEDNESDAY

##### Grand Designs

##### Channel 4, 9pm

Flying instructor Colin Mackinnon and his partner, hovercraft instructor and trapeze artist Marta Bringtons, love their airfield so much, they have decided to live there too. Their plan is to build an extraordinary metal sculptural home next to the runway, designed by one of Scotland's most acclaimed architects. It's inspired by aircraft hangars, but bespoke metal homes are far from the norm in Scotland, and finding people to do the work is anything but easy. The violent rain,

snow, 100-mile-an-hour winds and the worst storms for a century don't help matters, so little wonder the year-long project starts dragging - into its third year. Colin and Marta do everything possible to see their unique project through to the end. But will Kevin like the result?

##### Science Britannica

##### BBC2, 9pm

It's the last in the present series of Science Britannica, but we shouldn't get too downhearted - no doubt a new Professor Brian Cox show will be along in a week or two. The reason he's become so ubiquitous is because he's very good at explaining difficult ideas in a way that makes it easy for non-experts to comprehend, without making us feel like we're being talked down to. However, this week he's tackling an issue that most of us should understand - happy accidents. It seems that some of Britain's most impressive breakthroughs were made when the scientists were actually trying to discover something else.

#### THURSDAY

##### Mayhem & Mishaps:

##### Britain Caught on Camera

##### BBC1, 9pm

Forget all those complaints about Health and Safety

getting out of control - this documentary could just convince you that you need to get an expert in to risk assess your house. Mark 'Chappers' Chapman takes a break from Match of the Day 2 to look at some of the calamities that could befall us as we go about our everyday lives. Admittedly, some of them look quite funny when they are happening to someone else, as we're treated to a whole host of CCTV and home video clips of people falling over. But others are no clearly laughing matter, as Chapman examines the consequences of DIY accidents, barbecue fires and exploding white goods.

#### FRIDAY

##### Marvel's Agents of SHIELD

##### Channel 4, 8pm

It's been a long time since Marvel created a hit, live action TV show. However, when Avengers Assemble struck box office gold last year, the time was finally right to exploit one of Marvel's most enduring organisations, S.H.I.E.L.D. (Strategic Homeland Intervention Enforcement and Logistics Division). If you missed last week's pilot, Agent Phil Coulson (Clark Gregg) is back from the dead. He forms a specialised team of individuals to brave the post-Battle of New York world. They include combat and espionage specialist Grant Ward (Brett Dalton), expert pilot and martial artist Melinda May (Ming-Na Wen), and free-spirited computer hacker Skye (Chloe Bennet). This week, Coulson and the agents travel to Peru to investigate an object of unknown origin, codenamed 0-8-4.

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**HALESOWEN, Hunnington Crescent£750 pcm**  
Centrally located to Halesowen. This immaculate property which is not to be missed features 4 good size bedrooms, 1 large reception room, fitted kitchen with dishwasher and fridge freezer, house bathroom with shower, conservatory, block paved driveway and garage.



**HALESOWEN, Sanderson Place£650 pcm**  
Luxury living in Hayley Green. A superb ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking.



**SELLY OAK, Corisande Road£625 pcm**  
A 3 bedroom semi detached house in a popular location with bus links to Birmingham City Centre, close proximity to Birmingham University and QE Hospital. Featuring 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 doubles and 1 single bedrooms, bathroom shower. Walking distance to Selly Oak Park.



**HALESOWEN, Wroxley House£625 pcm**  
Luxury living in Hayley Green. This luxury 1st floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner with balcony, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking.



**BEARWOOD, St Marys Road£625 pcm**  
A 2 bedroom furnished to suit mid terraced house located in this very popular area of Bearwood. The property offers spacious accommodation with 2 reception rooms, kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms. Private rear garden. On road parking. Available now.



**STOURBRIDGE, Wheeler Street£595 pcm**  
A traditional 3 bedroom mid terraced property in the highly sought after Old Quarter of Stourbridge. Featuring front reception room with original marble fireplace, rear reception room, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 large double bedrooms and 1 large single. Lovely rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing. On road parking.



**HALESOWEN, Graham Road£595 pcm**  
A 3 bed traditional semi detached house in a cul-de-sac location. An ideal position for Blackheath Town Centre and access for the M5. This unfurnished property features a lovely entrance hall, lounge with bay window, dining/kitchen, 2 doubles and 1 single bedrooms, shower room, gas central heating, double glazing, garage and driveway. rear garden.



**HALESOWEN, Wiltshire Drive£595 pcm**  
Located on the Homer Hill Estate. A well presented semi detached house briefly featuring 3 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, spacious lounge, dining room, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, unfurnished.



**ROWLEY REGIS, Queens Drive£595 pcm**  
An unfurnished or part furnished traditional 3 bedroom semi detached house in a popular location. This house features a lovely entrance hall, front lounge with a bay window, dining room, small kitchen, upstairs bathroom with shower, off road parking for 2 vehicles, rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing. Available now.



**HALESOWEN, Harden Manor Court£550 pcm**  
This light and airy 1st floor apartment, situated a stones throw away from Halesowen Town Centre. Briefly featuring 2 double bedrooms, large spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, warm air heating, communal garden, plenty of parking, unfurnished.



**HALESOWEN, Hope Street£550 pcm**  
A fully refurbished ground floor apartment, set in a quiet and popular cul-de-sac. This property features a large lounge, refitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and refitted bathroom. The apartment has double glazing, newly fitted electric heating, garage and rear garden.



**HALESOWEN, Fairmile Road£525 pcm**  
Beautifully furnished. Situated in a popular residential area of Halesowen, with easy access to buses to the town. This modern furnished 1st floor apartment comprises 2 double bedrooms, excellent natural light in lounge, modern fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, garage parking, and communal gardens.



**OLDSWINFORD, Heath Lane£515 pcm**  
Ideally located in the centre of Oldswinford for shops, transport links and Mary Stevens Park. This large and spacious end terrace house features 3 good size bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, downstairs bathroom, upstairs toilet, fitted kitchen, enclosed rear garden and on road parking.



**CRADLEY HEATH, Claremont Street£495 pcm**  
Ideally located a short distance from Old Hill Train Station and local shops. This newly decorated and carpeted end terrace house features 2 double bedrooms, a good size lounge, fitted kitchen with gas cooker, new white bathroom suite upstairs but no shower, small rear garden, on road parking.



**CRADLEY HEATH, Mill Road£495 pcm**  
Located on this very popular Timbertree Estate and ideally situated for local schools and transport links. Comprising 1 double and 2 single bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen, house bathroom with shower, tiered rear garden. On road parking. Available now.



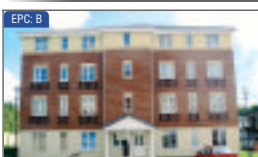
**BRIERLEY HILL, Little John Street£475 pcm**  
Located within walking distance to Brierley Hill and Merry Hill. This unfurnished modern end mews house features 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, spacious living room, bathroom with shower, rear garden, off road parking for 2 cars.



**NETHERTON, Round Street£475 pcm**  
Set in a quiet road, is this lovely semi-detached home. Featuring gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars, unfurnished. Popular residential street close to Netherton High Street.



**WORDSLEY, John Street£450 pcm**  
Close to local buses to Kingswinford, Stourbridge and a short walk from Ambicote. This extremely large and spacious 2 double bedroom terraced house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, Benefits include allocated parking, communal gardens, electric heating.



**CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street£425 pcm**  
Set in the heart of Old Hill. A modern and spacious 2nd floor apartment, ideally situated for Old Hill Train Station and shopping in Cradley Heath. This apartment offers 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with washer/dryer, modern bathroom with shower, large lounge, 1 allocated parking space. An opportunity not to be missed!



**CRADLEY HEATH, Victoria Gardens£395 pcm**  
A modern ground floor apartment, in the centre of Old Hill, with local bus stop outside and Old Hill Train Station close by. Featuring 1 double bedroom, electric storage heating, double glazing, fitted kitchen, shower room, allocated parking, unfurnished.



**HALESOWEN, Leasowes Court£395 pcm**  
An unfurnished 1st floor flat within walking distance to Halesowen. Having undergone a complete re-decoration and new carpets throughout this apartment features a lovely living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include allocated parking, communal gardens, electric heating.

**Property**

# Extended semi is priced at £154,950



This modern semi can be found in Acton Drive, Gornal with offers sought for around £154,950

**A MODERN extended semi-detached property in Acton Drive, Gornal, is for sale based on offers around £154,950.**

The property is within walking distance of the village centre and has a porch, reception hall, lounge, formal dining area, breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms, bath-

room, garage, carport, gas central heating, double glazing and private gardens.

The property is approached over a Tarmac drive with parking to the carport and garage, with on the ground floor a lounge measuring 16ft 3in by 16ft 11in with archway to dining area.

## Integrated

The breakfast kitchen is 11ft 9in by 9ft 8in with a range of wall and base units, work surfaces, inset one and a

half bowl sink, breakfast bar, integrated oven and hob with overhead extractor and plumbing for automatic dishwasher.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite of bath, shower and screen, WC and wash hand basin on double vanity unit.

Outside the rear garden has slatted patio and lawn.

Call Bakers Estate Agents for further information on 01384 252527.

# Deal agreed for bungalow



This property in Mill Lane, Willenhall, which has been sold for offers of around £210,000 via estate agent Dixons

**DESCRIBED as exceptionally spacious and well-presented, this three/four bedroom bungalow in Mill Lane, Willenhall – with no upward chain – has just sold for a price tag of around £210,000.**

Agents say that the space on offer which includes a P-shaped conservatory and carport leads to a wider than usual garage.

Approached over a block paved driveway, the bungalow has a lounge, 21ft 11in by 13ft 9in with patio doors to the rear and an electric fire, with a dining room/bedroom four

and inner hallway with plumbing for washing machine and pantry cupboards.

The breakfast kitchen, 10ft 2in by 8ft, has wall and base units, roll-edge work surfaces, one-and-a-half sink drainer with mixer tap, built-in oven and electric hob with extractor over.

The conservatory is 21ft 8in by 12ft 9in with French doors and there are three bedrooms and a bathroom with spa bath and shower over, WC and wash hand basin, plus a separate WC.

Outside the rear garden is laid to lawn with a patio area. Call Dixons on 01902 477001 to view similar available homes.

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£174,950

This semi detached house is situated in a popular residential area. Lounge, dining room, kitchen and three bedrooms. Halesowen.

Linton Road, Cradley Heath



EPC E

Offers Over£120,000

This traditional semi detached house comprises lounge, kitchen breakfast room, two bedrooms and bathroom. Halesowen.

Western Road, Cradley Heath



EPC D

Offers Over£100,000

Well presented three bedroom property offering porch, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, shower room, gated drive and rear garden. Halesowen.

Victoria Gardens, Cradley Heath



EPC C

Offers Over£100,000

A two bedroom terraced house with accommodation comprising lounge, fitted kitchen and family bathroom. Outside has a rear garden and parking.

Olive Lane, Halesowen



EPC E

£95,000

This traditional end terraced property comprises two reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, two bedrooms, loft room and rear garden. Halesowen.

Glaslyn Avenue, Rowley Regis



EPC C

£90,000

This modern second floor apartment in a popular residential area. Comprising open plan lounge/kitchen, two bedrooms and allocated parking. Halesowen.

Lyde Green, Halesowen



EPC C

Offers Over£70,000

One bedroom first floor flat with a recently re-fitted kitchen and bathroom. The property also has an en bloc garage. Halesowen.

Saltwells Road, Dudley



Awaiting EPC

Offers Over£110,000

Mid terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, dining room, extended kitchen, family bathroom, gardens and garage.

Northway, Dudley



EPC E

£140,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, conservatory, bathroom, garden, driveway and garage.

Heath Green, Dudley



EPC C

Offers Over£100,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, family bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

Walter Road, Bilston



EPC D

£100,000

This well presented three bedroom semi detached property offers entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen, conservatory, bathroom and rear garden.

Leabank Road, Dudley



Awaiting EPC

Offers Over£90,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, front and rear gardens and driveway.

Walford Street, Tividale



EPC C

Offers Over£80,000

Terraced two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, downstairs wet room, upstairs bathroom, rear garden and garage.

Blowers Green Road, Dudley



Awaiting EPC

Offers Over£80,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, front and rear gardens.

Leasowe Road, Tipton



EPC D

£79,950

Three bedroom mid terraced property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, dining room, conservatory and bathroom.



# Motoring

Compiled by Motoring  
Editor Sharon Walters

## Seat set to put new Leon through its paces

LONG-term tests are about living with a car every day, doing all kinds of driving, and exposing the best and the worst of what real buyers will see for themselves. There are many things that a few hours behind the wheel on a new car launch just can't tell you.

Seat has put a lot of investment into the new Leon in an attempt to cut the gap on the perennial sales bonanza enjoyed by its sister car, the Volkswagen Golf.

While the Golf has become ever more straight-line sensible in its styling though, the Leon has brought together a stunning combination of curves, angles and overall poise to create something that looks much more interesting. The question is: do its real-world talents match up?

This is what I'm aiming to find out by taking delivery of a just run-in five-door Leon for the next six months. I've picked the mid-range SE model, which has a lot of little touches over and above the base S grade version, but is a healthy amount cheaper than the body-kitted and more ostentatious FR. I've also chosen a petrol engine, in light of the incredible work the Volkswagen Group has done to improve the drivability and efficiency of its unleaded-drinking powerplants.

Pages upon pages have been written about the 104bhp 1.2-litre TSI turbocharged petrol and it's fairly well known as a great unit. In light of that, I've opted for its big brother, the 138bhp 1.4 TSI. It's going to be interesting to



The new Seat Leon, a stunning combination curves, angles and overall poise

see whether it can justify the extra £1,050 over the 1.2. They share a road tax band but the 1.2 is four insurance groups lower and allegedly 3mpg more frugal, so I'll be aiming to see whether the higher performance from the 1.4 is worth it.

In terms of options, OU13 YBM has got only the key ones Seat reckons will be most popular with buyers. Chief among them is the Technology Pack, which brings with it full LED headlights – a first for any C-segment car – along with DAB radio and sat-nav courtesy of a good-sized colour screen mounted reasonably high

up on the dashboard. Initially Seat dropped the pack's near-£1,100 price to £500, but further down the line it became, amazingly, free of charge.

### Technology

The headlights are a big deal for Seat and the market in general and after much deal-making within the VW Group, the Leon has secured first rights to the new technology, even ahead of the Golf and Audi A3.

The idea behind LED headlights is not just that they use much less energy than traditional bulbs or high-intensity xenon lamps; the light



Seat has put a lot of investment into the the new Leon in a bid to boost sales

the special LEDs create is closer in colour to natural daylight than any alternatives, allegedly making it easier for the human eye to distinguish contrast and movement within the beam. As the nights draw in later this year, I'll have the perfect opportunity to test the theory.

On top of the Technology Pack there are 17in alloy wheels, which certainly fill the wheel arches more convincingly but could also be more exposed to damage from kerbs. I'll look into this and see whether the move was a wise one or not.

Other than that, the car is standard, so with

the Golf lined up as a significantly more expensive option and the Skoda Octavia perhaps being bigger than some people want or need, the time has come for the Leon to prove itself within the VW Group. I'm going to pile the miles on it, encompassing driving at every time of day and night, motorway trips, urban scratching, Sunday afternoon blasts and of course the weekly shop. My partner, Laura, will also be driving it, and since most family cars are shared between parents, her opinion will be invaluable. It's game on, Leon, so let's see what you're made of.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub>. Zafira 1.6i 16v VVT (Manual5), Manual 5-speed: Urban 32.5 (8.7), Extra-urban 51.4 (5.5), Combined 42.2 (6.7). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 157g/km.

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# **Motoring**

## Choice of five trim levels on the new Hyundai ix35 SUV



The ix35 from Hyundai is now on sale with prices from £16,995, with a five-year warranty as standard

**THE new Hyundai ix35 is now on sale and costs from £16,995, the Korean firm has confirmed.**

There will be five trim levels for the new SUV, comprising S, SE, SE Nav, Premium and Premium Panorama.

All models come with a long list of standard equipment that includes LED daytime running lights, tyre

pressure monitoring system and Trailer Stability Assist to help when towing.

There are also alloy wheels, air conditioning, Hill Assist Control and Downhill Brake Control for off-road driving.

Both two and four-wheel drive versions of the ix35 will be available depending on engine choice.

There are 1.6-litre petrol and 1.7- and 2.0-litre turbodiesel engines to pick from. The popular 1.7-litre diesel

offers 139g/km carbon dioxide emissions, while the new 2.0-litre diesel delivers improved 41.5mpg and 179g/km CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to the previous version.

Hyundai is also offering the Safety and Comfort Pack for SE models and above that comes with front parking sensors, Supervision cluster, Flex Steer and a tyre pressure display for £795. As with all new Hyundai cars, a five-year warranty is included as standard with the ix35.

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- Radiators / Tanks / Pumps Fitted
- Outside Taps Fitted
- Leaks Repaired
- PipeWork Alterations • Local Friendly Service

Call Richard: 07902 557 496

**TOP OF THE RANGE SHEDS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES**

**HAND BUILT SHEDS FROM £199**  
All sheds can be treated

**THE OLD HILL SHED SHOP**

**CALL TODAY 0121 5593057**  
**07905 289427**

Unit 4 Broadcott Ind est, Station Road, Old Hill, B64 6NT

**Safety and Security**

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Tel: 0121 550 1498  
Mob: 077222 41941

Garage Doors / Gates  
CCTV / Access Control  
Alarms & Security Lighting

Visit our website and request a free survey!

**Why Pay Main Dealer Prices?**  
**Crossways Motor Bodies**

30 Years Experience

- Motor Body Work Specialists
- Insurance Approved
- From a minor bump to major repairs
- FREE** local pick up and delivery
- FREE** estimates and written quotes

For a FREE estimate call:  
**0121 559 4040**

We also supply a car and van to none fault or insurance claims  
Web: www.crosswaysmotorbodies.co.uk  
email: crossways1@btinternet.com

Station Road, Old Hill, Cradley Heath, B64 6PL

**I.C.A. TILING SERVICES**

Walls, floors, bathrooms, kitchens and conservatories.  
Ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, slate,  
marble and all natural stone.

**FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATION AVAILABLE**  
Quality workmanship at competitive prices.  
Fully insured. Portfolio available.

For a free quote call Ian on  
01384 412796 or 07890 894631

**Paving**

**DRIVES • PATHS • PATIOS • COBBLES**

**FINE-LINE PAVING**  
(MIDLANDS) LTD

Contact Andy or Graham now,  
for a Free, No Obligation Quote

All Worked Guaranteed (01384) 869605  
07754 676336 / 07950 659668

Visit our website www.fine-linepaving.co.uk

**KEN PERRY**  
PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER  
Gas Fitting, Boiler Servicing  
and Immersion Heaters,  
Multi Point Water Heaters,  
Landlord's Gas Certificates,  
Boilers changed  
Guild of Master Craftsmen  
Gas Safe Registered

**STOURBRIDGE 392284**

**Time for a new shed?**  
Hand Built Sheds from £175

Custom made service  
available built to your  
size and requirements  
Payment plans available

**SHEDS & SUMMER HOUSES**

for a free quotation call  
**07594 841785**

Ground Floor,  
Falcon House  
High Street, Lye  
DY9 8LX

We now sell  
all fencing  
products at  
trade prices

**Skip Hire**

**UPHOLSTERY**

**SKIP HIRE**  
IN HALESOWEN  
Minis - Midis  
The best in the West  
**0121 561 5493**  
**07956 664002**

**JC RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICES**  
Specialists in  
Re-upholstery, Repairs and  
Antiques  
**CONTRACT & DOMESTIC**  
No Job Too Small  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
Choice of patterns  
Quality Workmanship

Blackheath  
0121 561 3977 daytime  
or 0121 561 2344 evenings after 6 pm

**To advertise your business and reach over 50,000 potential customers....**

**1** Call us on...  
**01384 353227**

**2** E-mail us at...  
**r.cooper@expressandstar.co.uk**

**3** Post to...  
Ryan Cooper, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Lake  
Regional Centre, West Bromwich. B70 0QB



# Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

## Index

- 1 Family
- 2 Leisure Time
- 3 Home & Services
- 4 Pets & Animals
- 5 Business & Farming
- 6 Property
- 7 Jobs
- 8 Motoring
- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

## Free Ads

# IT'S FREE IT'S EASY

For items up to **£250**

**VISIT:**

[www.expressandstar.com/bookanad](http://www.expressandstar.com/bookanad)

Simply press the free ad icon.  
Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock.  
Private advertisers only.

## Place a paid for advert

**By Phone**  
**01902 317878**  
8.30am - 6pm Mon - Fri. Closed Sat/Sun.

**Online**  
[www.expressandstar.com/bookanad](http://www.expressandstar.com/bookanad)

## In person

At your local Express & Star Office.  
Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm  
Monday - Friday for the next day's  
advertisement or also before 3.00pm  
Friday for Monday's advertisement.

## lost & found

**LOST** - Grey male cat, last seen September 7, Compton area. 01902 567574.



**MISSING SINCE JUNE.**  
Much loved Family pet.  
Last seen in Franche area of  
Kidderminster.  
Grey and white, male, tabby  
cat, just 2 years old.  
If sighted, please call us on  
01562 743876.



**SMALL ALL BLACK FEMALE CAT**  
Missing since Thursday  
September 12, Wentworth  
Road area, Bushbury. No  
collar but micro-chipped.  
£100 reward for the safe  
return or information leading  
to the safe return.  
Please call anytime Day or  
Night. 07866 404928.

## 1 Family

### education & tuition

**SMART TUITION SERVICES**  
Tuition for 11+ and key stage 3/4  
maths & science. £12/ hour.  
(Smethwick based) 0781 6825604.

### elderly & disabled

**Free Ads**  
**IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY**  
For items up to £250.  
Online at  
[www.expressandstar.com/bookanad](http://www.expressandstar.com/bookanad)

**MOBILITY SCOOTER**  
Excellent condition, 4 wheels,  
folds into boot.  
Can deliver.  
£295.  
Telephone 01584 891032  
or 07508 311029.

**MOBILITY SCOOTER**, Pride GoGo  
Elite Traveller LX. Diamonds into  
car boot. 5 months old. As new.  
£325 ono. 01902 897581.

**MOBILITY SCOOTERS** from £350  
can deliver, servicing available.  
Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384  
255019 / 07831 246292.

**MOBILITY SINGLE BED**, remote  
control, memory mattress, not  
used, £300 ono. 0121 520 9055.

**RIO MOBILITY SCOOTER**, very  
good condition, 3 wheeler  
Shogder, folds for car, £350 ono.  
Telephone 01902 653337.

**WREKIN STAIRLIFTS** reconditioned  
lifts from £500. Plus New  
Lifts. 01952 405397/07897 273617

## 2 Leisure Time

### caravans / motorhomes

**A BEAUTIFUL PARK** Near Ludlow  
Seasons end static caravan sale  
now on. why go further? Call Alma  
on 01584 823433

**AUTOSLEEPER**  
4 berth Motorhome, Boxer, 2.5,  
many extras, Arride suspension,  
on board gas tank, digital  
servicing, ladder, roof rack,  
awning and fully loaded kitchen  
and bathroom. £14,000.  
01952 255935.

**AVONDALE ARGENTE 550-4**  
2006, 4-berth, end bathroom,  
removable carpets, awning,  
alko lock, spare wheel, hook up  
lead, leisure battery, excellent  
condition.  
£5,995.  
01902 375239.

**BAILEY SENATOR VERMONT**  
2008, 2 berth, fully equipped with  
motor mover, solar panel, lovely  
condition. £9,300. 01562 854108.

**MAZDA BONGO CONVERSION CAMPER**  
4 berth, automatic, 1997, very  
good condition, tax, MoT.  
£7,500 ono.  
Telephone 01562 67404  
or 07890 348178.

**STATIC CARAVAN**  
35ft x 12ft, sleeps six, excellent  
condition, quiet site Mid Wales,  
lovely views, large corner plot  
with 2 sheds, 2 fishing pools,  
ground rent paid to 2014.  
£6,500 ono.  
01562 825825 / 07714 771740

**STERLING ECCLES MOONSTONE**  
2007, 4-berth, full electric  
mover, all the extras you need  
to start.  
£6,950 for quick sale.  
01902 342882 /  
07802 202211.

**35x12FT 6 BERTH CARAVAN**  
Small, quiet rural site. Excellent  
condition. UPVC verandah and  
ramp, patio and parking area. Suit  
semi / retired. £13,995 inc all fees.  
07891 528061 or 01686 670408.

### caravans wanted

**All Caravans Wanted**  
Any Age or Condition  
**\*CASH WAITING\***  
Immediate collection  
Call Bill on 07760 344 750

### car boot sales

**BEST BOOT SALE SUPER MARKETS**  
Saturday 8am - 1pm  
A454, Rudge Heath, between  
Wilton & bridgeport, WVS FEE

Saturday 10am - 2pm  
Barracks lane, poplars farm,  
Between Walsall & Lichfield,  
WS9 1DL

Sunday 8am - 1pm  
Cocksparrow lane, Cannock,  
WS12 4PB

Wednesday 10am start  
Pook lane, Muckley corner,  
Between Walsall & Lichfield,  
WS14 0ET  
[www.bestbootsale.com](http://www.bestbootsale.com)  
07890267041

### music shop

**BASS PLAYER** required for  
indie/rock band, influences  
Beatles/Nirvana etc, original material,  
age 25-45. 01902 764090.

**MARSHALL MA 100W Valve**  
Combo, very near mint condition,  
£250. 07908 535945.

**SEVEN PIECE** drum kit, all black,  
3 stands and snare and Hi hat  
stand, great condition, £650.  
07794 468943.

**WELTMEISTER 90** bass piano  
accordion, in excellent condition,  
£175 ono. 01902 212986 or 07951  
472553.

### sports & leisure

**Free Ads**  
**IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY**  
For items up to £250.  
Online at  
[www.expressandstar.com/bookanad](http://www.expressandstar.com/bookanad)

**LIFE FITNESS C1** exercise bike,  
hardly used, immaculate condition,  
£500. 07885 104128.

### weddings

### candy cart

**CANDY CART** for hire, lovely addition  
to any celebration, for further  
information contact 07507 642975  
or nicola.a.jones@btinternet.com

### function rooms

**FREE FUNCTION ROOM** Weddings,  
anniversaries, birthdays,  
Powerleague 01384 266000  
halesowen@powerleague.co.uk

## clothing alterations

**Bridal/Evening Wear and General Clothing Alterations for Ladies and Gents**

Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat  
9.30am - 4.00pm

30 High St, Halesowen, B63 3BB  
**0121 585 0890**

## 3 Home & Services

### collectables & memorabilia

**WANTED BY COLLECTOR** All  
militaria war items, single or full.  
Very good prices paid. Will collect.  
07592 290 155.

### furniture

**BEDROOM SUITE**  
2 wardrobes (2ftx6ft), 5-drawer  
chest (2ftx3ft), dressing table  
(kidney shape) 5-drawers, triple  
mirror-bedside cupboard £220  
Will separate. All cream colour,  
very attractive picture decor.  
01384 352521 / 07751 103254.

**CHINA CABINET** glass shelves,  
(1970s), £50. 2 winged backed  
fire-side chairs, (floral pattern), £100  
ono. Call 01902 784464.

**DINING TABLE** solid beech wood,  
4 solid wooden chairs, hardly used,  
£250. 01902 761982.

**LA-Z-BOY 3** seater sofa, beige,  
electric recliner, excellent condition,  
3 year warranty, was £350 new  
genuine sale, £250.01902 344716.

**Top Soil, Building Sand, Paving Concrete Sand, Decorative Gravels**  
Delivered Bagged or Loose  
**01902 893226**

**ALLET KENSINGTON 14E** self  
propelled electric mower, 14E new,  
cost £499, a bargain at £275. Ring  
01902 746038.

**MUSHROOM COMPOST**, Bagged,  
delivered, excellent soil  
conditioner. 01386 442882. [www.veshammarketgardener.co.uk](http://www.veshammarketgardener.co.uk)

**items for sale**  
HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully  
remind advertisers that it is  
their responsibility to inform the  
publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies  
on the first day of publication.

### items wanted

**ALL GOLD 9ct £300 per ounce**  
**CASH PAID TODAY**  
**A GENUINE LA BUYER**

All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester  
Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins  
• Watches • Costume Jewellery • Old toys  
• Clocks • Paintings • All silver  
• Chinese items • Old ivory  
• Old Walking Sticks • Military items  
Pre 47 silver coins All war medals etc  
**ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING**  
**ALL HOUSE CLEARANCES**  
**01922 495066 OR**  
**07971 783206**

**ALL BOXED / LOOSE RAILWAY COLLECTIONS WANTED**  
ANY GAUGE OR AGE  
Also live steam, also Diecast,  
Dinky, Corgi, Slot On.  
Guaranteed top cash prices  
paid!!  
0121 602 2559/07891 713547.  
[thetrainmasters67@hotmail.com](mailto:thetrainmasters67@hotmail.com)

**WANTED** Thermostat radiator  
valves, (11).  
Telephone 07968 444189

**A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING**  
Carpets dry in 30 minutes.  
Call Paul: 0800 112 3959  
[www.aaclasscarpetcleaning.co.uk](http://www.aaclasscarpetcleaning.co.uk)

**driveways & patios**

**New Style DRIVEWAYS AND PATIOS LTD**  
Block Paving, tarmac  
and landscaping.  
Fully insured and registered.  
01902 267853 or 07920 754864

### kitchens & bathrooms

**RANGE MASTER COOKER**, 2 gas  
ovens, cream and black, £450.  
01902 618325.

### t.v. / home entertainment

### service

**AERIAL / TV SPECIALISTS**  
TV Plasma / LCD repairs  
Digital aerial installation  
Wall mount / set ups / etc  
Plasma, LCD TV's from £99  
Any area, 7 days  
**07850 330251**

### specialists at your service

### aerials

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS**  
1 aerial into 2 rooms  
**£90**  
1 aerial into 4 rooms  
**£135**  
**SAME DAY SERVICE**  
**01902 858191**  
**01384 429166**  
**01543 439095**  
**01922 716029**  
**07833 738857**

**ALLET KENSINGTON 14E** self  
propelled electric mower, 14E new,  
cost £499, a bargain at £275. Ring  
01902 746038.

**MUSHROOM COMPOST**, Bagged,  
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**ALL BOXED / LOOSE RAILWAY COLLECTIONS WANTED**  
ANY GAUGE OR AGE  
Also live steam, also Diecast,  
Dinky, Corgi, Slot On.  
Guaranteed top cash prices  
paid!!  
0121 602 2559/07891 713547.  
thetrainmasters67@hotmail.com

**WANTED** Thermostat radiator  
valves, (11).  
Telephone 07968 444189

**A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING**  
Carpets dry in 30 minutes.  
Call Paul: 0800 112 3959  
www.aaclasscarpetcleaning.co.uk

**driveways & patios**

**New Style DRIVEWAYS AND PATIOS LTD**  
Block Paving, tarmac  
and landscaping.  
Fully insured and registered.  
01902 267853 or 07920 754864

## flooring

**3 FLOOR FINISHES**  
Laminate, Carpet & Vinyl floor fitter  
Professional and reliable service,  
25 years experience. Free estimates  
Call: 07890 981282

**gardening services**

**GARDENS TIDIED** from £5 per  
garden. 25 years experience. Call  
01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

**gas fitting**

**GAS SERVICES**

Boilers  
Cookers  
Fires  
Gas Checks  
Landlord Certificates  
Gas Leaks Traced  
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired  
Same Day Service  
Free Quotes  
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs

**Call: 01902 366855 / 07761 973975**

**house clearances**

**A ABSOLUTE BEST CASH PRICE PAID**  
for house clearances and bereavements.  
Discrete Service  
Sheds, Garages and gardens cleared.  
All Rubbish Removed  
CARRIERS LICENSED  
Tel: 07852 172641

**plans prepared**

**ADAM DESIGN**, Building Plans.  
Drawn and submitted to council.  
Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037.  
Email: [adamdesign@sky.com](mailto:adamdesign@sky.com)

**removals**

**CHEAPER REMOVALS**

**NATIONWIDE INSURED, FREE QUOTES**  
Single Items to Full Removals.  
01902 894916 / 07807 773035

**A & M CHEAP REMOVALS**  
Local  
Careful Firm  
Full or Part loads  
Call Don:  
0800 587 0377  
or 07749 941319

**CALL DEAN!** Business/Domestic,  
Deliveries/Relocation/Full house  
item. 07429 453209/01902 830870

**roofing**

**MG ROOFING**  
Flat roofs, tiling,  
roof repairs, fascias  
and gutters.

**01902 238989 or 07580 465449**

**PREMIER ROOFING** New Roofs,  
Repairs, Facias & Gutters. Call:  
0121 535 7501 or 07875 387445.

**SEMI RETIRED ROOFER** All things  
roofing, flat roofs/fascias and  
guttering, 38 years experience.  
Please call Keith: 07546 158165

**skip hire**

**MT SKIPS**

All sizes  
All areas covered  
Immediate delivery  
Competitive prices  
Fast and Reliable service  
Call: 01384 240956  
07920 885774

**GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE LTD.**  
Mini, midi, maxi, large.  
Screened soil and crushed  
hardcore for sale. All skips for  
weekend must be booked by  
Friday. Call: 0121 555 6060.

## 4 Pets & Animals

### equestrian corner

**ALL READERS** are advised to  
check if Horses have the required  
Passport information.

### guns & dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**  
Advertisers must ensure that  
they meet all necessary legal  
requirements for owning and  
using guns.

**WANTED** Mole traps, old or new,  
working. Mares stolen.  
07775 517425.

### pets corner

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Please be aware that when  
purchasing a puppy there are  
some simple guidelines you can  
follow to ensure that you are not  
purchasing from a Puppy

1. Try to ensure you visit the  
puppy whilst it is still with it's  
Mother.

2. Do not arrange to collect a  
puppy from any other location  
than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given any  
KC documentation, if pedigree.  
Whist Midland News  
Association publications take  
great care to avoid publication  
of advertisements from Puppy  
Farmers we cannot accept any  
liability should readers  
purchase from this kind of  
establishment.

**AMERICAN BULL DOG**, 8 months  
old, male, pedigree, genuine  
reason for rehoming, good home  
only £150. 0121 602 3838.

**BICHON FRISE** puppies, fully  
vaccinated and health checked,  
£275. 07972 604503.

**BORDER COLLIE** pups, various  
colours inc Merle, long / medium  
coats, lovely markings, great tem-  
perament. £100. 07721 768462.

**BORDER COLLIES**  
We have some lovely Border  
Collies in our care from 7 months  
old. Call 01588 676106.

**BOXER PUPPIES**, three boys and  
three girls, brindle and red, can be  
viewed / reserved now. Ready to go  
in four weeks. Parents can be seen.  
Good temperament, £300.  
07980 660267.

**CAVACHONS** (Cavalier/Bichon)  
pups, fully vaccinated, health  
checked, £250. 07972 604503.

**CAVALIERS** and Cavapoos,  
puppies and juniors, all colours.  
£355/£750. 07867 535054.

**FOREST DOG RESCUE**  
Rehoming - Sam & Max - 3 &  
4 yrs. males. Barney - English  
Bull Terrier X, 8mths. Sid -  
Staffie X Springer, 3yrs, male. Tia -  
Bruce - Staffie, 2yrs, male. Tia -  
blue Staffie, 5yrs, female. Zeena -  
Staffie, 18mths, female. Foxy - Husky X, 9mths,  
male. Toto - Terrier 5yrs, male.  
Archie & Sheeba - young  
Husky X. Keeper - Mastiff X  
4yrs, male.

**01295 269181 or 07564 262371** [www.forest-dog-rescue.org.uk](http://www.forest-dog-rescue.org.uk)

**FOUR KITTENS** two pure tabby,  
three white/tabby, wormed, fixed.  
£30 ensures good home. 07790  
531984. Dudley.

**JACK RUSSELL** cross Terrier  
Puppies, multi coloured, ready to go,  
£200. 01384 270740.

**KITTENS X 2**, Both tortoiseshell  
girls, £30 each, to ensure good  
home. 07460 345164.

<



01902 317878 • www.expressandstar.com/classifiedads

# Classified Ads

**URGENT**  
**LOVING HOMES NEEDED**  
 Lexie 1yr springer x staffie  
 Jinks 5yr old bull mastiff girl  
 Roddy 6.5yr collie x jack russel  
 Sadie 3yr german shepherd  
 Tilly 4yr old Jack Russell  
 Gentle Jack 8yr old boxer  
 Randy 2yr german cross lab  
 Jed 6yr border collie  
 Laddy 5yr border collie  
 Gentle fred 8yr cross breed  
 Bella 6mth lab x staffie  
 Pepsi 3yr old collie  
 Desmond 1yr staffie neutered  
 For more info on these lovely dogs call 01588 676106 or visit our website  
 www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

**WESTIE PUPS**, loyal, obedient, non mouthing, parents can be seen, perfect family pet. 07949 652806.

vets

## Express & Star

**THIS SPACE**  
**COULD BE**  
**PROMOTING**  
**YOUR**  
**BUSINESS**

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

## 5 Business & Farming

### business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

### commercial premises

**BLACK HEATH** - 4000 Sqft Secure Industrial Units. £150 per week ex. Call: 07757 531407

### farm machinery

**WANTED OLD MOTORBIKE**  
 Scooter or Honda 500/70/90 or Moped. Any condition. 07796 402136. 01952 460749.

## 6 Property

### bungalows

**LLANGYNIEW**  
**NEAR WELSHPOOL**  
 Superb 3 bed chalet bungalow. Fully double glazed and fully residential. Gardens and decking all round. Set in glorious Mid Wales countryside.

£85,000 ono.

Ian Parry 01938 811194.

**properties wanted**

**We Pay 100% of Purchase Price**

**We Buy Any House**

**We are a family run local business.**

**A fair offer from people you can trust.**

**No fees - Free solicitors**

**Call Stan on 0800 032 1718**

**EVERY TIME**

**pink ladies A PROPERTY COMPANY RUN BY WOMEN**  
 \* subject to terms

- Free confidential service • No Fees • Any property • Any condition
- Any area • Stop reposessions • Deceased estates

**0800 169 1118** (24hrs)

**WE BEAT ANY PRICE!** **GUARANTEED**

**We pay 100% of purchase price**

- Guaranteed offer • Any condition • Free solicitors • No fees •

**Call 0800 783 2822** 24 hrs

**Deumark Homes**

\* Terms apply

**national homeowners helpline.co.uk**

**In a mess? Talk in confidence We can help**

**A guaranteed offer\* no fees\* free solicitors**  
 \*subject to terms

**WE BUY ANY HOUSE**  
**ANY AREA • ANY CONDITION**

**24-7 0800 032 1718 OR TEXT BUY TO 88802**

**Get 95-100% For Your House - FAST!**

- Free valuation. Free consultation
- 100% Confidential. No obligation
- Any property. Any condition. Anywhere
- Repossession stopped

**0800 092 5743**  
**01902 489 500**  
 YellowSpringbok.co.uk

**Fast Sale Maximum Value**

**YellowSpringbok**

**TOP GEAR DRIVER TRAINING**

**DSA QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS**

- LGW/PCV • MINIBUS • B+E TRAINING
- INTENSIVE CAR TRAINING
- FREE ASSESSMENTS
- DRIVER CPC TRAINING
- FREE MEDICAL WHEN BOOKING
- A RIGID AND ARTIC COURSE AT THE SAME

**0121 585 0834**  
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## SPORT

## Skipper on mark with two before league start

**Barford Tigers Ladies 6 Droitwich Ladies 2**  
BARFORD Hockey Ladies welcomed Droitwich from the division above in what promised to be a challenging encounter in their last game before the League starts.

Tigers started the game on the front foot and went ahead inside the first five minutes when Sarah De Pinna powered into the D and slotted past the keeper.

Captain Leanne Homer increased Tigers lead after 15 minutes and soon added her second.

Stand-in keeper Charn Gill came to the rescue after a long ball found the Droitwich centre forward in the D, diving full length to deflect the ball out.

Droitwich continued to press and got their reward five minutes before half-time. From the restart Tigers went back on the attack and De Pinna notched her second.

Bianca Homer put Tigers further ahead before Droitwich notched a second but Barford had the final word with a goal from Lateefah Burton. This Saturday the ladies kick off their league fixtures at Ludlow.

**Other Results:** Midlands Premier Division; Barford Tigers Men 1sts 4 Northampton Saints 1st 3

Friendlies: Barford Tigers Men 2nds 2 Lansdown 2; Barford Tigers Men 4ths 5 Wootton Wanderers 2nds 3

## A high five for Callum in 10-4 win

**Withymoor 0 Halas Hawks u-16 Girls 7**  
KAYLEIGH Pomfrett, Danielle Hudson and Amy Blakemore all scored two and Abbey Willingale one.

**Redditch United 0 Halas Hawks Girls u18s 10**  
Scorers were Charlotte Pardoe, Kate Drew, Amy Pooler, Katie Hickman, Elisha Rose, Rebecca Ingram, Gemma Stokes (2) and Lucy Addeley (2).

**Legion Lions 4 Halas Hawks West u11s 10**  
Callum Steatham hit five, Harvey Brookes four and Anthony Andreou one.

**Trysull Tigers 4 Halas Hawks u-18s 3**  
Sharn Shelley, Jake Fereday and Tony Harley netted.

**Halas Hawk Ladies 3 Tamworth 4**  
Erin Hickin scored a brace and Sarah Hayden the third.

## Tivi knocked out by Sphinx once more



Tivi's Luke Paskin and Coventry's Jerome Murdock clash

**Tivdale 1 Coventry Sphinx 2**  
**FA Vase Second Qualifying Round**  
IN THE space of eight days Tivdale were knocked out of both the national competitions by Coventry Sphinx.

There can be no excuses with this result. Coventry were the better side for the majority of the game and were well worth their win. They travel to Pelsall Villa for the first round proper on October 19.

The game sprung to life on 31 minutes when Jason Chilton allowed Jerome Murdock to get on the wrong side of him and after going down in the box the man in the middle pointed to the spot. Murdock made no mistake to put Sphinx in front. The game fell back

## Tivdale FC

into scrappy mode with niggly fouls and Coventry for some reason jettisoned their football for time wasting.

It was from a free-kick that Tivdale equalised on 43 minutes. Stuart How hit the kick towards the Sphinx back post and Luke Paskin rose to head back across keeper Carl O'Neill and into the net. On 60 minutes when right back Mitchell Plows received his second booking for a foul and was sent off.

From the resulting free kick Sphinx worked the ball down the line where Plows would have been and the cross was turned home by Matthew Fowler.

For the second week running Tivdale had to go in search of an equaliser. On 70 minutes they thought they had a golden chance of getting it when referee Matt Perry awarded them a penalty but his assistant Debbie Rhooome had flagged for a handball in the build-up and the free kick was given the other way.

Tivdale went gung-ho as they launched the ball into the Sphinx box and hoped something would happen. But an organised Sphinx side weathered the attacks with no great alarms.

The game ended with a spate of 'handbags' involving most players. But even that summed up Tivdale's day as it also fizzled out.

## Boss Rowe delighted as old boy Hill rejoins



Tipton new boy John Hill

FORMER Tipton Town defender John Hill has rejoined the club.

Hill – son of ex-Tipton and current Halesowen Town boss John Hill – is a no-nonsense player who played for Town for several seasons and played a key part in the famous FA Cup run to the First Round.

'Bonky' played for Tipton boss Ian Rowe for a spell at Gornal Athletic and has signed from AFC Wulfrunians where he started the season.

Ian Rowe said: "We're delighted to have got John back at Tipton – he's a player I know a lot about and have worked with before and he's certainly familiar with the club."

"He will be a massive asset for us defensively, especially with us having lost Curtis Tilt to Halesowen Town and with Pete Wood having an injury setback."

## Rivals have to settle for runners-up

**The George 226 KGV 213**  
THE GEORGE first team condemned KGV to second place in the Warwick & Worcester bowls league Premier Division 1. They had needed at least a draw to secure the title.

In a tight match with a noisy atmosphere, wins for Paul Greene, Jamie Dunn, Shane Day, Elliot McGuinness, Marc Wilson, Stewart Meddings, Paul Hemming and Steve Darling completed a 13 shot victory.

**South Staffs Premier Division – Penn 213 The George 190**

The second team guaranteed their Premier place, coming back from a 16-point deficit thanks to wins from Chris Lambert, Mick McGuinness, John Deakin, Ray Broadfield, Eric Winston and Keith Walton

**Halesowen Town 3 Brigg Town 0**  
**BEN Haseley bagged another brace as inform Halesowen reeled off a comfortable sixth successive victory.**

Unmarked Elliott Turner picked up a loose ball to the left of the penalty area to drive home after just four minutes with bottom of the table Brigg caught cold in Halesowen's first attack.

Three minutes later, a rolling shot from Haseley was shepherded off the line by Brigg defender Daniel Barrett and Tom Tonks struck wide for the Yeltz in the 19th minute after Haseley broke down the right.

Home goalkeeper Sam Pearson parried away a long-range effort from Zebras' captain Paul Grimes after 25 minutes. It turned out to be Brigg's only real effort on target all afternoon.

## Elusive

Despite the home dominance after the interval, a second goal proved elusive as a 68th minute goal-bound Tonks shot ricocheted clear following great work from Haseley and the Lincolnshire side's full-back Oliver Fisher cleared another two efforts from Haseley off the line with goalkeeper Robert Zand beaten.

But Haseley finally doubled the Yeltz advantage with the perfect placement of a 72nd minute shot into the corner of the net from the edge of the area.

Eight minutes later Haseley produced another fantastic effort out of nothing but goalkeeper Zand tipped the ball over the bar for a corner.

With five minutes remaining Haseley nipped in and prodded past Zand to make it 3-0 with his seventh goal of the season after capitalising on a short back-pass.

Halesowen Town: Sam Pearson; Kristian Green, Adam Meacham, Neil MacKenzie (Chris Lait 59), Curtis Tilt, Brendan Kelly (c) (Dan Parker 86), Matthew Martin, Tom Tonks, Iyeden Christie (Nigel Penney 86), Ben Haseley, Elliott Turner. Unused Subs: Matt Falloway, Paul Evans (GK).

Brigg Town: Robert Zand; Oliver Fisher, Daniel Barrett, Anthony Bowley, Scott Hellwell, Michael Jacklin, Paul Ashton, Liam Dickens, Paul Grimes (c) (Scott Matthews 32), Jordan Thewliss, William Peers (Jack Cross 63). Unused Subs: Elliott Broughton, Lewis Trice.

Referee: Mr. Geoff Law Attendance: 281

## Kristian's looking to have the world at his feet



Kristian Thomas practises on the bars as he prepares for the world championships

GYMNAST Kristian Thomas is looking to the world championships to get his season belatedly on track.

Last year Thomas played a vital role in the British men's team which won bronze at the London Olympics.

However, 2013 has not exactly gone to plan for the 24-year-old from

Wolverhampton. A fractured tibia kept him out of April's European Championships in Moscow in which Olympic team-mates Max Whitlock and Dan Keatings both took gold.

Now returned to full fitness, Thomas, who learned his trade at Earls Gymnastics Club in Halesowen,

is relishing his return to action at Antwerp from September 30 to October 6 – his first major event since London 2012.

Along with Whitlock and Keatings, Thomas is joined by Dan Purvis, Sam Oldham and Ashley Watson in the six-man squad.

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# SPORT

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**Gymtastic**  
Kristian targets  
a world return  
**Page 63**



**Tivi bow out**  
Sphinx claim the  
FA Vase honours  
**Page 63**

e-mail: [chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk)

## Clegg joy as he signs on for the Heathens

POPULAR youngster Max Clegg was officially unveiled as a Dudley Heathens club asset prior to their play-off tie with Isle of Wight on Tuesday.

The 16-year-old signed his contract on parade before the impressive 59-31 victory over the Islanders – to the delight of a bumper crowd.

The former Cradley club fought off interest from a host of other clubs to secure the signature of the highly-rated youngster.

Clegg celebrated the news with a superb 7+2 point haul to help Heathens to victory, and he later revealed his delight at formally becoming a Dudley rider.

He said: "It's great to sign for a club like this – I've really enjoyed riding here this year so it's great to become an asset."

"I just want to thank the fans for all their support and the management for giving me this opportunity."

Boss Will Pottinger was delighted with another outstanding performance from his side against the Islanders.

"It gives us a good lead to take to the Isle of Wight next week, and hopefully we can finish the job off."

Meanwhile Dudley star Lewis Blackbird continued his run of form to bag third place in the National League Riders Championship at Rye House. Blackbird ended the night on 12 points – two behind Steve Boxall and Lewis Kerr.

## Ticket fees are pegged

A RECORD crowd is expected as the Selco Brummies take on Wolverhampton in the Sky Sports Elite League play-offs next week.

Admission prices have been pegged for the semi-final second leg tie at Perry Barr, billed as the biggest speedway meeting ever held in Birmingham. Tape is up at 7.30pm on Monday, September 30.

Admission prices are £16 adults, £12 concessions, £5 for 14-to-17-year-olds and under-14s free. Season ticket holders also go free.

Fans can obtain a 10 per cent discount by pre-booked their tickets. Call 07800 566128 between 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday.

Managing Director Alan Phillips said: "We are pleased to peg our play-off semi-final admission prices to that of a normal league match. We are expecting a record crowd, so we urge fans to buy advance tickets."

## Boxing legend Holyfield in Second City date



Boxing legend Evander Holyfield in Cannock with Bar Sport owner Scott Murray

BOXING legend Evander Holyfield will be back in the West Midlands at the start of next month as the feature attraction of a sportsman's dinner in the heart of Birmingham.

The former undisputed world heavyweight champion will be at the Second City's Holiday Inn Hotel on Smallbrook Queensway on Wednesday night, October 2.

Earlier this month he kicked off his UK tour with a date at Bar Sport, in Cannock. "The Real Deal" was one of the most recognisable fighters of his era, turning pro at 21 after winning a bronze medal at the 1984 Olympic Games. He knocked out

### Boxing

Mike Tyson's conqueror, James 'Buster' Douglas, to take all the heavyweight belts for the first time in 1990 but retired after being defeated for the titles by Michael Moorer in 1994.

He returned and engaged in two big battles with Tyson, taking the WBA crown by stoppage in 1996 and then winning by disqualification a year later, after famously having part of his ear bitten off.

He drew with Lennox Lewis in 1999 but lost a rematch eight months later, before becoming the only boxer to win a version

of the heavyweight title four times in 2000, against John Ruiz. The 50-year-old hasn't retired yet, either, last halting Dane Brian Nielsen in the 10th round in May 2011 although he hasn't competed since.

Before the evening show, Holyfield and Brummie former British middleweight champion Wayne Elcock will be visiting Birmingham Children's Hospital at 1pm to hand out presents to the patients.

Tickets to the dinner are £50, £100 and £150 – which includes a three-course meal – with prices rising for back, middle and front tier seating.

For more information, call 07976 842 383 or visit [www.boxfroguk.com](http://www.boxfroguk.com)

## Tickets sell fast for a night with ace Keegan

ONE of Britain's most celebrated footballers is the star guest at an evening in Dudley next week.

Organisers Compton Hospice say tickets for the Evening with Kevin Keegan are selling well.

The former Newcastle United player and manager will be at the Copthorne Hotel, on Thursday, October 3 in aid of the charity which supports patient with life-limiting illnesses.

The evening features a comedian, three-course meal and question and answer session with the double European Footballer of the Year.

Keegan, who won 63 England caps, later managed his country. He also played for Scunthorpe, Liverpool, SV Hamburg and Southampton and was boss at Manchester City and Fulham.

Simon Cater, corporate fundraiser for Compton Hospice, said "Kevin Keegan is a sporting legend. He captured the hearts of the British public."

Tickets cost £60 plus VAT per person or £55 plus VAT per person for tables of eight or 10.

## Unbeaten away run maintained

Kids Grove Athletic 2 Halesowen Town 2

HALESOWEN Town maintained their unbeaten away record in an exciting game at lowly Kids Grove but will feel they could have won it.

Yeltz took the lead on Tuesday night through Ben Haseley after 19 minutes.

Karl Espley's equaliser was followed by an Iyeden Christie strike on 67 but

Matt Haddrell drew Kids Grove level from the spot with 12 minutes left to play.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kettle, Telford. Thursday, September 26, 2013.

# IT'S NOT OVER YET, SAY RIVAL BOSSES

Wolves 44 Birmingham 46

PHIL Morris paid tribute to his Birmingham side after edging out Wolves 46-44 on their own track on Monday night.

The Perry Barr boss was in a jubilant mood after the play-off semi-final first leg win but insists there will be no complacency from his side in the return at Perry Barr next Monday (September 30).

Former rider Morris, who has a fine relationship with his riders and co-promoter Graham Drury, said: "We're really happy with that – we came here with a job to do and we managed to do that."

"We said before the meeting we wanted to come here and win – it's a tough place to go but we still managed to do that so we are delighted."

### Beauty

"Next week we might have another three riders at the top of the scorechart which is the beauty of this team, and we'll be looking for another strong performance in that second leg."

"It was a good night at the office but it's still only half-time and we know it's far from over."

"Anything can happen in the play-offs and Wolves are more than capable of coming back at us."

Brummies skipper Danny King hailed his side's performance, despite not enjoying the best of evenings personally as he twice fell off.

The meeting had a sombre conclusion when Wolves guest Niels-Kristian Iversen was taken to hospital with a hip injury after a bad crash. But the Dane has since been released and no broken bones were confirmed.

Wolverhampton team boss Peter Adams insists

### Speedway

their season is not over despite the first leg defeat.

The Monmore Green outfit face an uphill task against their table-topping neighbours as they aim to extend their impressive 2013 campaign.

But Adams is hopeful that his side can pull off a shock result at Perry Barr and reach the grand final against Swindon or Poole.

"We knew it was important for us to try and get some sort of a lead to take to Perry Barr, so to end up with a narrow defeat is obviously very disappointing," he said.

"Unfortunately things didn't quite go our way, but it's still not over yet. Birmingham have quality throughout the side which makes them very hard to attack, but we'll certainly have a good go in the second leg."

"They haven't finished top of the league for nothing – they have been the best team in the country over the course of the season."

"But we'll be doing everything we can to try and salvage a result."

Wolves: Iversen 5+1, Wells 6, F Lindgren 13+1, Miskowiak 1, Skornicki 9, L Lindgren 4+2, Klindt 6

Birmingham: Smolinski 3+2, Doyle 12, King 4, Barker 9, Harris 11, Covatti 1, Tully 6+2



Niels-Kristian Iversen crashes out of the final race of the play-off semi-final first leg with fellow dane Nicolai Klindt



James Doyle in action for the Brummies during the play-off semi-final at Monmore. Pictures: Jon Hipkiss

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